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BOISLEUX-AU-MONT, FRANCE

MARCH 30, 1918

SAMSON AGONISTES.

3 16

J. D. Slade
Feb: 1890

SAMSON AGONISTES.

MILTONI

SAMSON AGONISTES.

GRÆCE REDDIDIT

GEORGIUS, BARO LYTTELTON.

νῦν αὖτε σκοπὸν ἄλλον.

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Græca vel Latina. Ecquis vero unquam e nostratibus aut ex Italicis, vetitum sibi vocabulum habuit tantum quia ab alio quodam poeta non ante usurpatum fuerit? Verbum sane elegans et poeticæ dictioni consentaneum est: Plato, Demosthenes, Xenophon, adhibuerunt; sed in paucis istis quæ supersunt Tragœdiis, Æschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, non adhibuerunt. Ideone compertum est nunquam adhibuisse, vel re nata non adhibituros fuisse? Iterum, obsecro, animadvertat judex candidus, quot exstent *ἅπαξ λεγόμενα* in Græcæ poeseos monumentis.

Denique, diserte mihi hæc sententia proferenda est, licentiam istam qua V. D. Greswell plusquam satis usus est, fingendi prorsus vocabula quæ nusquam apud antiquos inveniuntur, plane intolerabilem esse; neque fines istos unquam egressus sum. Perpauca quidem sunt, quæ huic regulæ videntur solum adversari, re

SAMSON AGONISTES.

SAMSON AGONISTES.

SAMSON.

MANOAH.

DALILA.

HARAPHA.

OFFICER.

MESSENGER.

CHORUS OF DANITES.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ΔΗΛΙΛΗ.

Ἡ ΡΑΦΑΣ.

ΚΗΡΤΞ.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΔΑΝΗΤΩΝ.

SAMSON AGONISTES.

SAMSON.

A LITTLE onward lend thy guiding hand
To these dark steps, a little further on;
For yonder bank hath choice of sun or shade.
There I am wont to sit, when any chance
Relieves me from my task of servile toil,
Daily in the common prison else enjoined me;
Where I, a prisoner chained, scarce freely draw
The air imprisoned also, close and damp,
Unwholesome draught. But here I feel amends,
The breath of heaven fresh blowing, pure and sweet, 10
With day-spring born; here leave me to respire.
This day a solemn feast the people hold
To Dagon their sea-idol, and forbid

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ ΑΓΩΝΙΣΤΗΣ.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

Σ' χειραγωγὸς ὀμματοστερῆ βάσιν
πρόσω τί μοι ποίμαινε· τήνδ' ὄχθην κάτα
ἔστιν τὰ καύματ' ἀνταμείβεσθαι σκιᾶς,
καὶ δὴ τύχῃ λυθέντα τοῦ καθ' ἡμέραν
πόνου, κάθησθαι· δουλίαις γὰρ ἄλλοτε
πέδαις βιασθεὶς, κοινὸν εἰληχὼς βάρος,
δύσοσμ', ἐν εὐρώεντι δεσμωτηρίῳ,
μιάσμαθ' ἕλκω ξυμπαθόντος ἀέρος.
ἀλλ' ἐνθάδ' ἀντίμισθον ἡδύπνουν τόδε
οὐράνιον αὔρας νεογενοῦς ἄημά μοι 10
ἑωθιναῖς ἀκτῖσι σύμφυτον γάνος
πάρεστ' ἄχραντον· ὧδ' ἐλινῦσαι θέλω.
τῷ γὰρ Δάγωνι, τῷ θαλασσίῳ θεῷ,
τανῦν ἑορτάζοντες οἱ ταύτῃ βροτοὶ

Laborious works—unwillingly this rest
Their superstition yields me—hence, with leave
Retiring from the popular noise, I seek
This unfrequented place to find some ease—
Ease to the body some, none to the mind
From restless thoughts, that, like a deadly swarm
Of hornets armed, no sooner found alone 20
But rush upon me thronging, and present
Times past, what once I was, and what am now.
O, wherefore was my birth from Heaven foretold
Twice by an Angel? who at last, in sight
Of both my parents, all in flames ascended
From off the altar, where an offering burned,
As in a fiery column charioting
His godlike presence, and from some great act
Or benefit revealed to Abraham's race.
Why was my breeding ordered and prescribed, 30
As of a person separate to God,
Designed for great exploits, if I must die
Betrayed, captived, and both my eyes put out,

δύσοιστον ἀπεκήρυξαν ἐν πόλει κόπον·
ἄκοντες οὖν, τὸ θεῖον εὐλαβούμενοι,
ἐῶσί μ' ὧδε, δημίου κραυγῆς ἄπο,
χώραν προσελθεῖν ἄβροτον, ἄμπαυλάν τινα,
ἤν πως τύχῃ γε, σώματος κακῶν ἔχειν·
οὐ γάρ ποτ' οὐδὲ σμικρὸν ἡ 'ν φρεσὶν δύη 20
λωφᾶν δύναιτ' ἂν, θανασίμων σφηκῶν τρόπον
ἐπεγχυθεῖσα τῷδε τῷ παναθλίῳ
ἄπαυστος, οἰωθέντι περιτυχοῦσ' ἀεὶ,
τὰ δὴ παλαιὰ παραβαλοῦσα τοῖσι νῦν.
φεῦ· τί γὰρ μεγίστου σεμνὸς ἄγγελος Θεοῦ
δισσοῖσι τἀμὰ προὔννεπεν μαυτεύμασι
γενέθλι', ἀθρούντοιν δὲ τοῖν γεννητόροιν
διφρηλάτης ὡς, πυρφόρῳ καλύμματι
ἀγαστὸς, οἷον οὐ κατ' ἄνθρωπον γεγὼς,
ἀπ' ὦρτο βωμοῦ τοῦ καθιερωμένου, 30
εἰ μὴ γέρας τι τοῦ Θεοῦ τῇ πατρίδι
τῇ 'μῇ προδεικνύς; κἀμὲ τῷ Θεῷ τροφοὶ
ἐχώρισαν τάξαντες, ὡς ἔργοις ἔπι
ῥητοῖσι, μηδὲ τοῦ τυχόντος ἐκτελεῖν,
εἰ δὴ πέπρωται παρακεκρουσμένον θανεῖν
δοῦλόν τε, δισσῶν τ' ὀμμάτων ἀχηνίᾳ,

Made of my enemies the scorn and gaze,
To grind in brazen fetters under task
With this Heaven-gifted strength? O glorious strength,
Put to the labour of a beast, debased
Lower than bondslave! Promise was that I
Should Israel from Philistian yoke deliver.
Ask for this great deliverer now, and find him 40
Eyeless in Gaza, at the mill with slaves,
Himself in bonds under Philistian yoke.
Yet stay, let me not rashly call in doubt
Divine prediction. What if all foretold
Had been fulfilled but through mine own default!
Whom have I to complain of but myself?
Who, this high gift of strength committed to me,
In what part lodged, how easily bereft me,
Under the seal of silence could not keep,
But weakly to a woman must reveal it, 50
O'ercome with importunity and tears.
O impotence of mind, in body strong!
But what is strength without a double share

ἐχθροῖς γέλοιον θαῦμ'; ἀναγκαίῳ μόρῳ,
δεσμοῖς τε χαλκέοισιν, ἐξαντλεῖν πόνον,
ἐς τοῦθ' ὑπῆρχε θεόδοτον σθένος τόδε
τὸ σεμνότιμον, θηρὸς οὐ θητὸς λαχὸν 40
αἴσχιστον ἀξίωμα; τόνδ' ὁρᾶτέ με,
τὸν τοὺς πολίτας τῶν Φιλιστίνων ἄπο
ἐλευθερώσονθ', ἥδε γὰρ Θεοῦ φάτις·
ὁρᾶτε τὸν σωτῆρα, τῆς σωτηρίας
αὐτὸν μάλ' ὑστεροῦντα, χὢν ποτ' ἐκράτει
δοῦλον, ταλαιπωροῦντα συνδούλων μέτα,
τυφλόν τε, Γάζῃ κάτοχον· ἀλλ' οὐ τὸν Θεὸν
ἔστιν παρόντων αἰτιάσασθαι κακῶν,
ὃς πάντ' ἔμελλε θεσπίσας καὶ δρᾶν ἐμοί·
αὐτὸς δ' ἐμαυτῷ πημονὰς ἐφείλκυσα· 50
σθένος γὰρ ἦν μοι τόδε παρηγγυημένον·
τὸ δ' εὖ μάλ' εἰδὼς οὗπερ ἦν τοῦ σώματος,
τό τ' ἐκβαλεῖν πρόχειρον, ἐκβέβληχ' ὅμως,
δείξας τὰ δῶρα τἀσφαλῶς κεκρυμμένα,
κλαυθμῶν ἕκατι καὶ γυναικείου στόνου.
φρενῶν κέκομμαι, σῶμα δ' ἔῤῥωμαι μόνον.
τί δ' ἄν τις οὖν ὄναιτο τῆς ῥώμης μόνον,
ὄγκῳ πελώρῳ περιπεσὼν ἀνωφελεῖ,

Of wisdom? vast, unwieldy, burdensome,
Proudly secure, yet liable to fall
By weakest subtleties, not made to rule,
But to subserve where wisdom bears command.
God, when he gave me strength, to shew withal
How slight the gift was, hung it in my hair.
But peace! I must not quarrel with the will 60
Of highest dispensation, which herein
Haply had ends above my reach to know.
Suffices that to me strength is my bane,
And proves the source of all my miseries;
So many and so huge, that each apart
Would ask a life to wail; but chief of all,
O loss of sight! of thee I most complain!
Blind among enemies, O worse than chains,
Dungeon, or beggary, or decrepit age!
Light, the prime work of God, to me is extinct, 70
And all her various objects of delight
Annulled, which might in part my grief have eased,
Inferior to the vilest now become
Of man or worm; the vilest here excel me.

σοφίας γ' ἁμαρτὼν, ἧς ἔδει μάλ' ἐξόχου;
ἐν ᾧπερ ἐδόκουν καὶ μάλ' ἐστηριγμένος, 60
φαύλοισιν αἰσχρῶς ἐσφάλην σοφίσμασι.
σθένος γὰρ οὔποτ' ἐν βροτοῖς ἄρχειν ἔφυ,
ὑπηρετεῖν δὲ, τῶν σοφῶν ἡγουμένων·
πρὸς ταῦθ' ὁ Δαίμων, καὶ διδοὺς τοῖον γέρας,
τὰ δῶρ' ἀπηξίωσε μὴ τιμὴν ἔχειν,
κόμαις ξυνάψας. ἀλλά μοι σιγᾶν πρέπει,
στέργειν τε κρυπτὰ τοῦ Θεοῦ βουλεύματα,
τοῦ πάντα ταμιεύοντος· ἀρκείτω τόδε·
σθένος τόδε ξύμπαντος αἴτιον κακοῦ,
τοῦ σφόδρ' ὑπερβάλλοντος, ὥστε πημάτων 70
ἕκαστα μηδὲ διαβιοῦν κλαίοντά με
ἅλις δύνασθαι· τοῦτο δ' ἔσθ' ὃ δύρομαι,
τό μοι κάκιστον, ἡ βλάβη τῶν ὀμμάτων.
τυφλὸς παρ' ἐχθροῖς, ἆρα μὴ δεσμῶν πλέω
πέπονθ' ἀσιτίας τε καὶ γήρως τάδε;
τὰ παρὰ Θεοῦ πρωτεῖα, τὴν αὐγὴν λέγω,
ὅλωλ' ἐμοῦ γ' ἕκατι, χὢν ἂν ἄλλοτε
σμικρὸν παρηγόρημα, ποικίλῃ χαρᾷ,
πόνοις ἀπηύρων, ἐκλέλοιπε πανταχοῦ·
κἀγὼ παρ' ἑρπέτ', οὐ γὰρ ἀνθρώπους λέγω, 80
ἄδοξός εἰμ', ἃ καὶ χαμαιπετῆ βλέπει·

They creep, yet see; I, dark in light, exposed
To daily fraud, contempt, abuse, and wrong,
Within doors, or without, still as a fool,
In power of others, never in my own;
Scarce half I seem to live, dead more than half.
O dark, dark, dark, amid the blaze of noon, 80
Irrecoverably dark: total eclipse,
Without all hope of day!
O first created beam, and thou great word,
"Let there be light" and light was over all,
Why am I thus bereaved thy prime decree?
The sun to me is dark,
And silent as the moon,
When she deserts the night,
Hid in her vacant interlunar cave.
Since light so necessary is to life, 90
And almost life itself—if it be true
That light is in the soul,
She all in every part—why was the sight
To such a tender ball as the eye confined,
So obvious and so easy to be quenched,
And not, as feeling, through all parts diffused,
That she might look at will through every pore?
Then had I not been thus exiled from light,
As in the land of darkness, yet in light,

ἐμοὶ δ' ἀφεγγὲς φέγγος, οὐδ' ἄρ' ὕβρεως
ἀτιμίας τε καὶ δόλων καθ' ἡμέραν,
οἴκοι, θύραζε, μωρὸς ὡς, ἀφίσταμαι,
ζῶν ὧδ' ἐπ' ἄλλοις, ἡμιθνὴς κἀν τῷ βίῳ.
μεσσημερία λαμπὰς, φεῦ, φεῦ,
πάντως ἐξέλιπ', ἐξέλιπ' ἐλπίς·
φῶς πρωτόγονον καὶ πάνταρχον
τὸ προκηρυχθὲν θεόθεν, φροῦδον·
φροῦδος δ' ἥλιος, ὡς ὅτε δίας 90
ὄμμα σελήνης ἕξεδρον ἄστρων
ἄντροις ἀλαοῖς ᾤχετ' ἄφωνον,
περιτελλομένων
μηνῶν ἐπὶ καιρὸν ἀμοιβῆς.
ἀλλ' εἴ γε τὸ ζῆν τοῦτ' ἀναγκαῖον τρέφει
κἀντάξιον τὸ φῶς, διηκούσης τὸ πᾶν
ψυχῆς κάτοικον, πρὸς τί τὰν προὔπτῳ τάδε
λέλογχε φῶς, εὔβλαπτον, ὀφθαλμῶν ἕδη;
ἔδει γὰρ, εἰ δὴ πάντοσ' αἰσθέσθαι πάρα,
καὶ τοῦ βλέποντος σῶμα πανταχοῦ βλέπειν. 100
οὐχ ὡς τά γε νῦν ἀνὴρ ὅδ' ἔχει,
περικυκλούσης ἀποκληρωθεὶς,
ὡς ἐν νεκρῶν δώμασιν, αὐγῆς.

To live a life half dead, a living death, 100
And buried; but O, yet more miserable!
Myself my sepulchre, a moving grave;
Buried, yet not exempt,
By privilege of death and burial,
From worst of other evils, pains and wrongs;
But made hereby obnoxious more
To all the miseries of life,
Life in captivity
Among inhuman foes.
But who are these? for with joint pace I hear 110
The tread of many feet steering this way;
Perhaps my enemies, who come to stare
At my affliction, and perhaps to insult,
Their daily practice to afflict me more.

CHORUS.

This, this is he; softly a while,
Let us not break in upon him.
O change beyond report, thoughts or belief!

κἄτι κάκιον, θήκην παρέχων
αὐτὸς ἐμαυτῷ σωματοειδῆ,
βίον ἐκτρίβων ἀβίωτον·
τῶν δὲ θανόντων, οἷά τε νεκρὸς,
γέρας οὐκ ἔλαβον, τῶν πικροτάτης
λύμης ἄτης τε λυθέντων·
ὃν γ' ἔτι μᾶλλον τῶν πρὶν κατέχει 110
πάντα τὰ θνητοῖς ἀλγεινότατα,
στερῥαί τε πέδαι,
παρά τ' ἐχθροῖς θυμὸν ἀθέλκτοις.
ἆ, ἆ, ἔα, ἔα,
τίνων τοῦτο κοίνῳ πελάζει βαδισμῷ
τὸ πλῆθος, ὡς κλύοντά γ' ἔστ' ἐπεικάσαι;
ἆρ' ἐχθρῶν στόλος ἀκμήτων,
σκοπουμένων με, καὶ γέλωτος οὕνεκα,
τὸ σφὶν ξύνηθες, τῶνδ' ἐπ' αὐξήσει κακῶν;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ὅδ' ἔσθ' ἀνήρ· ἴχνος δὲ λεπτὸν 120
τιθῶμεν, ἦκα προσμολόντες·
φεῦ τᾶς παρ' ἐλπίδα φθορᾶς ἀπείρου·

See how he lies at random, carelessly diffused,
With languished head unpropt,
As one past hope, abandoned, 120
And by himself given over,
In slavish habit, ill-fitted weeds
O'erworn and soiled.
Or do my eyes misrepresent? Can this be he?
That heroic, that renowned,
Irresistible Samson, whom unarmed
No strength of man, or fiercest wild beast could withstand;
Who tore the lion, as the lion tears the kid;
Ran on embattled armies clad in iron,
And, weaponless himself, 130
Made arms ridiculous, useless the forgery
Of brazen shield and spear, the hammered cuirass,
Chalybean tempered steel, and frock of mail
Adamantean proof;
But safest he who stood aloof,
When insupportably his foot advanced,

ὑρᾶτε δ' εἰκῆ χύδην κείμενον,
κάρα τε νεῦον ἀμένη-
νον, ἄφιλον ἄλλως δυσέλ-
πιδ' αὐτύγνωτον ὄντ'·
ἀεικεῖ δουλίᾳ
στολᾷ τ' ἀλλοτρίᾳ δυσείδης
ἐμοῖς γοῦν ὄμμασιν πέφανται·
ὅδ' οὖν ὁ Σάμψων, ὁ δὴ παγκρατής, 130
ἀντίτιμος ἡρώων,
ὅς θ' ὑπερέσχ' ἄοπλος
ἀνδρῶν τῶν ὑπεράλλων
θηρῶν τ' ἀγριοθύμων,
ὃς λέοντ' ἔκαν', ὡς λέων ἁβρὸν ἔκτανε μόσχον·
στρατῶν γυμνὸς σιδηροχαρμῶν
ἄμαχος ἐπέσσυτο στίχοισι,
ἔθετο παρ' οὐδὲν ὅπλα χαλκότευκτα,
θώρηκα, ῥαιστῆρος ἔργον, σάκη,
χαλυβδίκ' ἐγχέων στόματ', 140
ἀδαμαντίνοις θ' ἄμμασι
χιτῶνας συμπαγεῖς.
ἀπελθὼν δ' ἀσφαλής,
τοῦδ' ἰλαδὸν ἐχθρὰ δυσπαλαίστου

In scorn of their proud arms and warlike tools,
Spurned them to death by troops. The bold Ascalonite
Fled from his lion ramp—old warriors turned
Their plated backs under his heel, 140
Or grovelling soiled their crested helmets in the dust.
Then with what trivial weapon came to hand,
The jaw of a dead ass, his sword of bone,
A thousand foreskins fell, the flower of Palestine,
In Ramath-lechi, famous to this day.
Then by main force pulled up, and on his shoulders bore,
The gates of Azza, post and massy bar,
Up to the hill by Hebron, seat of giants old,
No journey of a sabbath-day, and loaded so;
Like whom the Gentiles feign to bear up heaven. 150
Which shall I first bewail,
Thy bondage or lost sight?
Prison within prison
Inseparably dark.
Thou art become—O worst imprisonment!—
The dungeon of thyself; thy soul
—Which men enjoying sight oft without cause complain—

καταπατοῦντος μεγασθενῆ περ,
ὑπέροπλα· σύχν' ὡς λέοντ' ὄρμενον
ἔτρεσ' Ἀσκαλωνίτας·
χαλκεόνωτος ἐν μά-
χαις, πτήξας πόδα δεινὸν,
ἔμπειρος πολεμιστὴς 150
πήληχ' ὑψίλοφον κόνει περιπεσὼν ἐμόλυνεν.
τὸ δ' αὖθις, ὧν πᾶς πέρι τὰ νῦν θροεῖ,
τοὺς χιλίους ἐν Ῥαμαιληχίῳ φονεύσας,
ὄνου λαβὼν σιαγόν', ὄστινον ξίφος,
ἄωτον ἀπέταμε χθονός·
βίᾳ δὲ πυκνὰς ᾤχετ' ἀναφέρων
πρόῤῥιζον αὐτοῖς πύλας μοχλοῖσι
σταθμοῖσί τ' Ἄζης, ἐς Ἑβρέαν
ἕδραν γιγάντων, τὸ δ' οὐ πάρεργον ἦν,
ἀλλ' ὥς τιν' ἄστρα φασὶ βάρβαροι φέρειν. 160
τίν' οὖν κακῶν κάκιστά σοι;
δεσμῶν πέπονθας πλέω,
δεσμὰ δεσμῶν, ἀμαυρὸς ἀεί.
κληθεὶς αὐτὸς ἐν αὐτῷ
κακῶν ἔξοχα πάσχει·
εἰσὶν, οἵ γε δεδορκότες ψυχᾶς ὄμμα μάταιοι

Imprisoned now indeed,
In real darkness of the body, dwells,
Shut up from outward light, 160
To incorporate with gloomy night;
For inward light, alas!
Puts forth no visual beam.
O mirror of our fickle state,
Since man on earth, unparalleled!
The rarer thy example stands,
By how much, from the top of wondrous glory,
Strongest of mortal men,
To lowest pitch of abject fortune thou art fallen:
For him I reckon not in high estate, 170
Whom long descent of birth,
Or the sphere of fortune, raises;
But thee whose strength, while virtue was her mate,
Might have subdued the earth,
Universally crowned with highest praises.

SAMSON.

I hear the sound of words; their sense the air
Dissolves unjointed ere it reach my ear.

CHORUS.

He speaks, let us draw nigh—Matchless in might,
The glory late of Israel, now the grief!

κλαίουσ' ἀφεγγές· σὺ δ' οὖν οὐ μάταν,
ἔργῳ δύαισιν ἀλαᾶς σώματος βιασθείς·
νύκτ' ἐνδέδυκας, φεῦ, διανταῖον κνέφας·
φρενῶν δὲ φῶς ἀνόμματον· 170
τοιαῦτ' ἰδεῖν ἔφυ τἀνθρώπινα·
ὑπερβέβηκας δ' ὅσ' ἦν τὰ πρόσθεν,
ἀφ' ὑψιπύργων ὃς ἐκπεσὼν ἑδρῶν
τανῦν ἐφάνθης ἐπ' ἐσχάτοις τύχας,
ῥώμαν ἄριστος, οἷος οὐκ ἄλλος, τὸ πρίν.
τιμὰν ἐμοῦ γ' ἂν οὐ λάβοι
γένος παλαιὸν κλυτὸς,
ἢ τροπαῖσιν τύχας προκόψας,
σὺ δ', ὃν δόξα περιστε-
φὴς ἀνήγαγεν, ᾧ τ' ἂν ἔ- 180
δωκεν ἵς, ἀρετᾷ ξύνοικος, βροτῶν βασιλεύειν.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἤκουσα φωνήν· ὃν δ' ἐσήμηνεν λόγον,
ἄναρθρος ἐῤῥύηκε, πρίν γ' ὤτων θιγεῖν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἡμᾶς προσελθεῖν, τοῦδε βάζοντος, χρεών.
φεῦ, φεῦ, κράτιστε, κῦδος Ἑβραίοις πάλαι,

We come, thy friends and neighbours not unknown, 180
From Eshtaol and Zora's fruitful vale,
To visit or bewail thee: or, if better,
Counsel or consolation we may bring,
Salve to thy sores; apt words have power to swage
The tumours of a troubled mind,
And are as balm to festered wounds.

SAMSON.

Your coming, friends, revives me; for I learn
Now of my own experience, not by talk,
How counterfeit a coin they are who friends
Bear in their superscription,—of the most 190
I would be understood. In prosperous days
They swarm, but in adverse withdraw their head,
Not to be found though sought. Ye see, O friends,
How many evils have enclosed me round;
Yet that which was the worst now least afflicts me,
Blindness; for had I sight, confused with shame,
How could I once look up, or heave the head?
Who, like a foolish pilot, have shipwrecked

νῦν τοὔμπαλιν δακρυτὸς, ἥκομεν σέθεν
φίλοι τ' ἀπ' οἰκείων τε γείτονες τόπων,
Ἑσητάλου Ζώρας τε, παμφόρου πέδου,
σοὶ δηξιθύμων συστενάξοντες πόνων.
ἀλλ' εἴ τι τῶνδε κρεῖσσόν ἐστι συμβαλεῖν 190
παρηγοροῦντας ἢ παραινοῦντας, τόδε
τύχοις ἂν ἡμῶν, βουκολούμενος πάθη.
ἔστ' εὐεπείᾳ παρακόπους κηλεῖν φρένας,
ἕλκη τις ὡς ἔθελξεν ἐξηνθηκότα.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ζωήν τιν', ὑμῶν μοι προσελθόντων, νέαν
ξύνοιδα, κιβδήλου δὲ παράσημον τύπου
κόμμ' ἐγχαραχθὲν οἷς τὰ πλεῖστ' εἶχον φίλοις.
εὐπραξίαις συχνός τις, ἐν τροπαῖς χρόνων
ἀπῴχετ', οὐδ' εὕροι τις ἂν μακρῷ πόνῳ.
ὁρᾶτέ μ', οἷα πάντοθεν πάσχω κακά. 200
ὃ δ' ἦν κάκιστον, τοῦδ' ἔτ' οὐκ ὤραν ἔχω,
τῆς τυφλότητος· καὶ γὰρ εἰ βλέπειν παρῆν,
πῶς ἂν δυναίμην ὀμμάτων ὀρθοστάδην
γλήνας ἐπαίρειν, τήνδ' ἔτ' αἰσχύνην ἔχων;
ὅστις, μάταιος ὥς τις οἰακοστρόφος,

My vessel, trusted to me from above,
Gloriously rigged; and for a word, a tear, 200
Fool, have divulged the secret gift of God
To a deceitful woman. Tell me, friends,
Am I not sung and proverbed for a fool
In every street? do they not say, How well
Are come upon him his deserts? Yet why?
Immeasurable strength they might behold
In me, of wisdom nothing more than mean;
This with the other should at least have paired,
These two, proportioned ill, drove me transverse.

CHORUS.

Tax not divine disposal; wisest men 210
Have erred, and by bad women been deceived;
And shall again, pretend they ne'er so wise.
Deject not then so overmuch thyself,
Who hast of sorrow thy full load besides.
Yet truth to say, I oft have heard men wonder
Why thou should'st wed Philistian women rather
Than of thine own tribe, fairer or as fair,
At least of thine own nation, and as noble.

τὸ καλλίπρωρον θεόδοτον σκάφος τόδε
βύθοις ἐπόντισ', αἰόλων ἥσσων λόγων
οἰμωγμάτων τε, κρυπτὸν ἐκ Θεοῦ γέρας
γυναικοβούλοις ἀποβαλεῖν σοφίσμασιν.
ἆρ' οὐ γελαστὸς τῶνδ' ἀκούσομαι, φίλοι, 210
ᾠδὰς παρασχὼν πᾶσι καὶ παροιμίαν;
"δράσας ὅδ', ἀντίποινα καὶ πάσχει, καλῶς."
τί γάρ; σθένος με κάρθ' ὑπερβαλόντ' ἰδεῖν
ὑπῆρχε, σοφίαν δ' οὐδαμῶς ἰσόῤῥοπον.
ἔδει γε ταύτην ἀντισηκώσαντ' ἔχειν,
ἀξυμμέτρω δὲ τώδ' ὁδοῦ μ' ἐξήλασαν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

μὴ δὴ Θεῷ πρέπει σε μέμψασθαι νόμων.
πταίσαντας ἴσμεν πρὸς γυναικείοις δόλοις
σοφίαν γε τοὺς μάλιστα προσποιουμένους,
μέλλουσι δ' αὖθις· τὴν δ' ἄγαν ἀλγηδόνα 220
μὴ προστίθεσθαι τῶν ἐνεστώτων βάρει.
ὅμως δὲ, ποίαν σκῆψιν οὐδ' Ἑβραϊκὴν
γάμοις προῃροῦ, μὴ τυχὼν ἐμφυλίας,
τό γ' εὐγενές τε τήν τε πρώθηβον χάριν
οὐκ ἐλλιποῦσαν τῶν Φιλιστίνων, κόρην,
θαῦμ' ἐστὶ κοινὸν, οὐδ' ἂν ἀντείποιμ' ἐγώ.

SAMSON.

The first I saw at Timna, and she pleased
Me, not my parents, that I sought to wed 220
The daughter of an infidel. They knew not
That what I motioned was of God; I knew
From intimate impulse, and therefore urged
The marriage on; that by occasion hence
I might begin Israel's deliverance,
The work to which I was divinely called.
She proving false, the next I took to wife
O that I never had—fond wish too late!—
Was in the vale of Sorec, Dalila,
That specious monster, my accomplished snare. 230
I thought it lawful from my former act,
And the same end; still watching to oppress
Israel's oppressors. Of what now I suffer
She was not the prime cause, but I myself,
Who, vanquished with a peal of words—O weakness!—
Gave up my fort of silence to a woman.

CHORUS.

In seeking just occasion to provoke
The Philistine, thy country's enemy,

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

Τιμνῖτις ἦν μὲν, ἧς τὸ πρῶτον ἠράμην.
ἡ δ' οὐκ ἔμελλε τοῖς ἐμοῖσιν ἀνδάνειν
τοκεῦσιν, ὡς ἄσεπτος, ἀγνοοῦσι δὴ
ἐν τοῖσδε μοιρόκραντον ἐκ Θεοῦ νόμον. 230
τὸ δ' αὐτὸς εἰδὼς, τῶν γάμων ἀντειχόμην.
ὁρμαῖς φρενῶν γὰρ ἐμφύτοις πέποιθ' ἀεὶ,
καὶ τοῖς πολίταις ταῦτα τῆς σωτηρίας
προοίμι' εἶναι, θεόθεν ἔργον ἀμφέπων·
ἐψευσμένος δὲ τῆσδε, δευτέροις γάμοις
τὴν ἐκ Σόρηκος, Δηλίλην, προσηγόμην,
τὴν εὐπρόσωπον, θρέμμα μοι δολοπλόκον·
ὡς ὤφελον δὲ καίριος γνῶναι τόδε·
ἔδοξα δ' ὀρθῶς ἀνανεώσασθαι τὰ πρὶν
πραχθέντ'· ἀεὶ γὰρ τοῦδ' ἐπειρώμην, ὅπως 240
τοὺς ἡμὶν ἐχθροὺς ἀντιδρᾶν ἔχοιμί τι.
οὐχ ἡ γυνή μοι τῶν κακῶν παναιτία,
αὐτὸς δ' ἐμαυτῷ, βοῦν ἀπὸ γλώσσης βαλών.
θήλεια κραυγὴ κατεπάλαισέ μ' ἐκνόμως.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ὡς αἰὲν ἐχθρὸς τῆς πάτρας ἐχθροῖς γεγὼς,

Thou never wast remiss, I bear thee witness;
Yet Israël still serves with all his sons. 240

SAMSON.

That fault I take not on me, but trans fer
On Israel's governors, and heads of tribes;
Who, seeing those great acts which God had done
Singly by me against their conquerors,
Acknowledged not, or not at all considered,
Deliverance offered. I, on the other side,
Used no ambition to commend my deeds;
The deeds themselves, though mute, spoke loud the doer.
But they persisted deaf, and would not seem
To count them things worth notice; till at length 250
Their lords the Philistines, with gathered powers,
Entered Judea seeking me, who then
Safe to the rock of Etham was retired;
Not flying, but forecasting in what place
To set upon them, what advantaged best.
Meanwhile the men of Judah, to prevent
The harass of their land, beset me round,
I willingly, on some conditions, came
Into their hands, and they as gladly yielded me
To the uncircumcised a welcome prey, 260
Bound with two cords; but cords to me were threads

λαχών γε καιροῦ, κἄμ' ἔχεις ξυμμάρτυρα·
πάντες δὲ διατελοῦμεν ἐν δεσμοῖς ἔτι.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

τήνδ' οὐ ξύνοιδα τὴν βλάβην εἰργασμένος,
αὐτοὶ δὲ φύλαρχοί τε καὶ δήμου πρόμοι,
οἳ καὶ μαθόντες τοῦ Θεοῦ ῥώμῃ σθένων 250
αὐτουργὸς οἷ' ἔδρασα τοὺς ἐχθροὺς πάλαι,
δώρων ἀπηρνήσαντο μὴ δοῦναι χάριν·
ἐμοὶ δὲ τἀμά γ' οὐχὶ κηρύσσειν ἔδει
ἔργ', αὐτὰ δ' ἦν μοι μαρτύρων ἀντάξια·
οἱ δ', ὡς ἐμοῦ σιγῶντος, ἠμέλουν ἀεί·
τέλος δ' ἀθροισθεῖσ' ἡ Φιλιστίνων βία
δεινῷ διωγμῷ τὴν πάτραν εἰσέρχεται·
ἐγὼ πέτρᾳ πάρ' Ἠθάμης ἐν ἀσφαλεῖ,
οὐ δραπέτης ἦ, πολλὰ δ' ἐνθυμούμενος
πῶς ἂν δυναίμην πρὸς τὸ δεξιώτατον 260
ἐχθροῖς ἐπελθεῖν· ἐν δὲ τῷδε περιβαλεῖν
τοῖς ξυννόμοις με, γῆς ἀπειργαθεῖν φθορὰν,
ἔδοξ'· ἐπὶ ῥητοῖσι δ' οὐκ ἄκων παρῆ·
αὐτοὶ δὲ βαρβάροισιν, ἀσπαστὸν γέρας,
ἔδοσάν με δισσῶν δεδεμένον σπαρτῶν πλοκαῖς·

Touched with the flame. On their whole host I flew,
Unarmed, and with a trivial weapon
Their choicest youth; they only lived who fled.
Had Judah that day joined, or one whole tribe,
They had by this possessed the towers of Gath,
And lorded over them whom now they serve.
But what more oft, in nations grown corrupt,
And by their vices brought to servitude,
Than to love bondage more than liberty? 270
Bondage with ease than strenuous liberty;
And to despise, or envy, or suspect
Whom God hath of his special favour raised
As their deliverer? if he aught begin
How frequent to desert him, and at last
To heap ingratitude on worthiest deeds!

CHORUS.

Thy words to my remembrance bring
How Succoth and the fort of Penuël
Their great deliverer contemned
The matchless Gideon, in pursuit 280
Of Madian and her vanquished kings;
And how ingrateful Ephraim
Had dealt with Jephtha—who by argument,

τὰ δ' ἡμικαύτοις ἦν ἔμοιγ' ἀντίῤῥοπα
λίνοις, ἐπεσσύθην τε καὶ γυμνὸς στρατῷ,
κἄκτεινα, φλαύρου ξιφιδίου δεδραγμένος,
ἡβῶσαν ἀκμὴν τῆς πόλεως, μόνον δέ τις
φυγὼν ἐσώθη· τῶν δ' Ἰουδαίων τότε 270
ξυνεσβαλόντων, εἴτε καὶ φυλῆς μιᾶς,
ἐκτησάμεσθ' ἂν οὓς ἔχει πύργους Γάθη,
τούτων κρατοῦντες οἷσι νῦν δουλεύομεν.
ἀλλ' οἷς πρόσω βέβηκε τοῦ δήμου φθορὰ,
αὐτοί γ' ἑαυτοῖς δουλίαν ἐπεισφέρειν,
θῆσσαν δοκοῦσι πολλάκις ῥᾳθυμίαν
στερῤῥοῦ προτιμᾶν τῶν ἐλευθέρων πόνου·
Θεοῦ δ' ἄριστα δῶρα, τοὺς ἀμύντορας,
φθονεῖν ὑποπτεύοντες, ἢ καταφρονεῖν.
ἀνθ' ὧν γὰρ εὖ δέδρακε τοιοῦτος, θαμὰ 280
μόνωσιν ἀντείληχε κἀχαριστίαν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ταῦτα σοῦ κλύων Πενύελον Σούκοτον τ' ἐμνησάμην,
ὡς ἔθεντ' ἀτημέλητον Γήδεον τὸν παμμέγαν,
Μαδίων αὐτοῖς ἄναξι πρὸς φυγὴν τετραμμένων·
Ἠφραημῖται δ' Ἰέπτην, ὧν ἔρεξ' ἀμνήμονες

Not worse than by his shield and spear,
Defended Israel from the Ammonite—
Had not his prowess quelled their pride
In that sore battle, when so many died,
Without reprieve adjudged to death,
For want of well pronouncing Shibboleth.

SAMSON.

Of such examples add me to the roll. 290
Me easily indeed mine may neglect,
But God's proposed deliverance not so.

CHORUS.

Just are the ways of God,
And justifiable to men;
Unless there be who think not God at all.
If any be, they walk obscure;
For of such doctrine never was there school,
But the heart of the fool,
And no man therein doctor but himself.
Yet more there be who doubt his ways not just, 300
As to his own edicts found contradicting;
Then give the reins to wandering thought,

Ἀμμονῆτας εἴτ' ἐλέγξας εἴτε νικήσας δορὶ,
κακὰ ποιεῖν ἔμελλον· οἱ δὲ τοὔμπαλιν δεδμημένοι
ἀθρόοις κλόνοις ἀφύκτου τ' ἔθανον ἐν στάσει δορὸς,
Σιββόλητον ἀποτυχόντες ὥστε μὴ σκεθρῶς φράσαι.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

κἀμὲ δὴ τούτοισι πρόσθες, τοῖς μὲν οἰκείοις ξένον, 290
τῆς δὲ τοῦ Θεοῦ προνοίας οὔποτε σφαλήσομαι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τὰ Δαίμονος θέσφατ' αἰὲν
ἔνδικ' ἦν, τοῦτ' ἔστι καὶ γνῶναι βροτοῖς,
πλὴν εἴ τις ἦν τὸ θεῖον ἐς τὸ πᾶν ἀρ-
-νούμενος μηδὲ γενέσθαι.
τῷ δὲ κατεσβήκασιν οἱ φρενῶν ὀφ-
-θαλμοὶ, διάγειν τυφλόν·
τὰ δ' οὐκ ἐδιδάξατ' οὐ-
-δεὶς, μὴ οὐ καθ' αὑτὸν αὐτοδίδακτος φρενόπληκτός τ' ὢν,
κοὐ ξυμμέτοχον λάβε τᾶσδε παιδείας. 300
πλείους δ' ἔτλησαν παρανόμων
Δαίμον' ὧν ἔδρασεν, ὡς αὑτοῦ παρὲκ
θεσμοὺς, γράφεσθαι, νοῦν ἀδέσποτον πλα-
-νώμενοι, ἐλασσωθέντος

Regardless of his glory's diminution;
Till, by their own perplexities involved,
They ravel more, still less resolved,
But never find self-satisfying solution.
As if they would confine the Interminable,
And tie him to his own prescript,
Who made our laws to bind us, not himself,
And hath full right to exempt 310
Whom so it pleases him by choice
From national obstriction, without taint
Of sin or legal debt;
For with his own laws he can best dispense.
He would not else, who never wanted means,
Nor in respect of the enemy just cause
To set his people free,
Have prompted this heroic Nazarite,
Against his vow of strictest purity,
To seek in marriage that fallacious bride, 320
Unclean, unchaste.

Θεοῦ ἀμνήμονες· ἐν δὲ τῷ τελευτᾶν
ἀμηχανίας περι-
-πλοκαῖς ἀπόροισιν αὐ-
-τοὶ δεινὸν ἐμπεπλεγμένοι, εἰσαεὶ αὐταρκείας
ἀπέτυχον· ἀργὸς κατέχει νιν ἀσάφεια,
σχολῇ τὸν ἀπείρον' αὐτὸν 310
αὐτὸς οἷς ἐψήφισεν
εἴρξοντας, ὃς οὐ καθ' αὑτοῦ
θέσμ' ἔθηκε τοῖς βροτοῖς·
παρὸν τὸν ἀεὶ δοκοῦνθ' οἷ,
ὡς ἄγος λύοντί τῳ,
ἐλευθεροῦν ποθ', οἷς πέφυκε, δεσμῶν.
πῶς, ὅς γ' ἐκύρωσ', αὐτὸς οὐ
κἄριστ' ἀναιρεῖν ἂν δύναιτο ταὐτά;
πρόχειρον ὂν τῷ Θεῷ
θέλοντι, πρός τ' ἐχθρῶν δίκαιον, 320
τὴν πόλιν σώζειν, ὅμως τὸν γεννάδαν
ὑποσχόμενόν περ
βίον ἁγνότατον διαζῆν,
ἀνοσίων δόλῳ γάμων
ὤτρυν' ἀγάμων μιγῆναι.
πρὸς ταῦτα ματαιόκομπα

Down reason then, at least vain reasonings down,
Though reason here aver
That moral verdict quits her of unclean:
Unchaste was subsequent, her stain not his.
But see! here comes thy reverend sire
With careful step, locks white as down,
Old Manoah. Advise
Forthwith, how thou oughtest to receive him.

SAMSON.

Ay me! another inward grief, awaked 330
With mention of that name, renews the assault.

MANOAH.

Brethren and men of Dan—for such ye seem,
Though in this uncouth place—if old respect,
As I suppose, toward your once-gloried friend,
My son, now captive, hither hath informed

χαιρέτω σοφίσματα,
μή νυν ἃ λογισμὸς ὀρθῶς
τῶνδ' ὕπερ καθίσταται·
τὸ γοῦν ἐπιεικὲς, ἐξά- 330
-γιστος ἥδ' ἐν τῷ γαμεῖν
οὐχ, ὕστερον δ', ὧν οὐ μετεῖχεν ἀνήρ.
ἀλλ', εἰσορῶ γὰρ τὸν γεραι-
-ὸν, δεῦρο προστείχοντα, σεμνότιμον,
λευκότριχ' ἤδη, σὲ τὸν
φύσαντα, Μάνων, ἀσφάλειαν
εὖ ποδῶν τηροῦντα, νῦν τοῦτον φρόνει
πῶς δεῖ σε δέχεσθαι.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

φεῦ τῆσδε φωνῆς· ὡς διανταῖαν τάλας
πληγὴν πέπληγμαι, δευτέραν οὐτασμένος. 340

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

φίλοι Δάνητες, οἷα γοῦν δοκεῖν ἐμοὶ,
καίπερ δυσαύλῳ ξυντυχόντες ἐν τόπῳ,
εἰ τοῦ πρὶν οὕνεχ', ὡς ἐπεικάσαι, κλέους,
ὃ θητικῆς ἤμειψεν αἰκίας τὰ νῦν,
ἐμοῦ γεραιὰν ὑστερήσαντος βάσιν,

Your younger feet, while mine cast back with age
Came lagging after—say if he be here.

CHORUS.

As signal now in low dejected state,
As erst in highest, behold him where he lies.

MANOAH.

O miserable change! Is this the man? 340
That invincible Samson, far renowned,
The dread of Israel's foes, who with a strength
Equivalent to Angels' walked their streets,
None offering fight; who single combatant
Duelled their armies ranked in proud array,
Himself an army, now unequal match
To save himself against a coward armed
At one spear's length. O ever-failing trust
In mortal strength! and O, what not in man
Deceivable and vain? Nay, what thing good 350
Prayed for, but often proves our woe, our bane?
I prayed for children, and thought barrenness
In wedlock a reproach; I gained a son,
And such a son as all men hailed me happy.

δεῦρ' ἤλθεθ' ἁδρῶν ἐν ποδωκείᾳ μελῶν,
τὸν υἱὸν εἴπατ' εἰ πάρεστιν ἐνθάδε.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

οἷος μὲν ἦν, θαυμαστὸς, ἐν τύχης ἀκμῇ,
τοιόσδε τῇ νῦν ἐστ' ἰδεῖν κακουχίᾳ.

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

φεῦ τῆς ἐλεινῆς τοῦδ', ἀψικήτου τὸ πρὶν, 350
φθορᾶς· ὅδ' οὖν ὁ περιβόητος, ὃν πάλαι
ἐχθροὶ παρ' αὑτοῖς περιπολοῦντα πανταχοῦ
ὑπεξέφευγον ὡς θεοῖς ἰσόῤῥοπον;
σμερδνῷ μόνος δ' ἀντεῖχεν εὐτάκτῳ στρατῷ,
ἀντὶ στρατοῦ γὰρ αὐτὸς ἦν· τοῦτον δὲ νῦν
καὶ δειλὸς ἐλθὼν ἐν διαστάσει δορὸς
κατεργάσαιτ' ἄν· οὐ γὰρ ἀνθρώπων σθένει
οὐδεὶς πεποιθὼς ἵκετο σκοπόν ποτε·
πάντη γὰρ ἐστὶ δολοπλόκου ψεύδους πλέα
βρότεια πράγματ'· ἔρχεται συχνὸν κακὰ 360
αὐτῶν μάτην ὧν ηὐξάμεσθ' ἐπηβόλοις.
ἐγὼ μὲν ᾔτουν τὸν Θεὸν παίδων σπορὰν,
ἀτεκνίαν γὰρ ὡς ὄνειδος ᾠόμην·
τυχὼν δ', ἔδοξα πᾶσιν ὀλβιώτατος·

Who would be now a father in my stead?
Oh, wherefore did God grant me my request,
And as a blessing with such pomp adorned?
Why are his gifts desirable, to tempt
Our earnest prayers, then, given with solemn hand
As graces, draw a scorpion's tail behind? 360
For this did the Angel twice descend? for this
Ordained thy nurture holy? as of a plant
Select and sacred, glorious for a while,
The miracle of men; then in an hour
Ensnared, assaulted, overcome, led bound,
Thy foes' derision, captive, poor, and blind,
Into a dungeon thrust, to work with slaves.
Alas! methinks whom God hath chosen once
To worthiest deeds, if he through frailty err,
He should not so o'erwhelm, and as a thrall 370
Subject him to so foul indignities;
Be it but for honour's sake of former deeds.

SAMSON.

Appoint not heavenly disposition, father.
Nothing of all these evils hath befallen me

νῦν τοῦδε τἀνδρὸς τήνδε τὴν παιδουργίαν
ἑκὼν τίς ἄν ποτ' ἀντιδέξασθαι θέλοι;
ὡς ὤφελον δὲ μήποτ' ἐκ Θεοῦ τόδε
δώροις ἀγαστὸν ἀφθόνοις εἰληφέναι·
σπουδῇ μὲν ὤπασ', ὧν ἐνῆκ' ὀξὺν πόθον·
λαβόντα δ', οἷα σκορπίου κέντρον, δάκνει· 370
τοῦδ' οὕνεκ' ἠξιώσαθ' ἄγγελος Θεοῦ
καὶ δὶς κατελθεῖν, ἐκκρίτοις θ' οἷον φυτοῖς
ἔθη καθιέρωσε σοὶ τὰ παιδικά,
ὅθεν τέθηλας ἡμὶν εἰς βραχὺν χρόνον
θαυμαστὸς ἀνδρῶν· εἶτα κἀν βαιᾷ ῥοπῇ
δόλοισιν αἰχμάλωτον, ἐχθροῖσιν γέλων
οἳ κατεπάλαισαν σ', ὄμματ' ἐστερημένον
δοῦλόν τε, πάντων τ' ἀπορίᾳ, θητῶν μέτα
πόνοις ταλαιπωροῦντα, τοιοῦτόν σ' ὁρῶ.
ἀλλ' ὅν γ' ἐπ' ἄκροις ἐξέλεξ' ἔργοις Θεὸς, 380
εἰ καὶ βρότειον ἔπαθεν, αἰκίᾳ τόσῃ
πρόῤῥιζον οὐκ ἔδει νιν αἰσχίστῃ πεσεῖν,
κλέους γ' ἕκατι τῶν πάρος πεπραγμένων.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

μὴ τἀκ Θεοῦ τυχόντα μέμψασθαι, πάτερ.
οὔκ ἐστιν οὐδὲν ταισίδ' ἐν δύαις ἐμοὶ

But justly; I myself have brought them on,
Sole author I, sole cause. If aught seem vile,
As vile hath been my folly, who have profaned
The mystery of God, given me under pledge
Of vow, and have betrayed it to a woman,
A Canaanite, my faithless enemy. 380
This well I knew, nor was at all surprised,
But warned by oft experience. Did not she
Of Timna first betray me? and reveal
The secret wrested from me in her highth
Of nuptial love professed, carrying it straight
To them who had corrupted her, my spies
And rivals? In this other was there found
More faith, who also in her prime of love,
Spousal embraces, vitiated with gold,
Though offered only, by the scent conceived 390
Her spurious first-born, treason against me?
Thrice she assayed, with flattering prayers and sighs
And amorous reproaches, to win from me

ὃ μὴ κακουργῶν μόνος ἐμηχανησάμην,
αὐτόσσυτον πῆμ', ἐνδίκῳ παθήματι.
τί δ' αἰσχρὸν, εἰ μὴ τοὐκ Θεοῦ δοθὲν σθένος
ἐφ' ᾧτε κρυπτὸν ἀσφαλῶς σώζειν ἀεὶ,
ῥῖψαι διαφθείραντ', ἀβελτέρῳ φρενί; 390
παρ' οὗ προδόντος ἔμαθε βάρβαρος γυνὴ,
ἐχθρόξενόν μοι κἀπατήλιον κάρα.
οὐδ' ἦν ἀπροσδόκητα, προὐσήμαινε γὰρ
τὰ πολλὰ πρὶν πραχθέντα· τοιοῦτον πάλαι
ἔτλη τὸ Τίμνης θρέμμα, πρώταρχος δόλων.
ἡ γὰρ τὰ κρυπτὰ παρατεθέντ', ἔρωτ' ἐπεὶ
ἐψεύσατ' αἰνόλεκτρος, ἐν σμικρῷ χρόνῳ
τοῖς ἀνταγωνισταῖς τε καὶ σκοποῖς ἐμοῦ,
αὐτὴν παρεκτρέψασιν, ἁρπάσασά μου
μετέδωκεν· οὐδ' ἄμεμπτος ἡτέρα δοκεῖ, 400
ἢ κἀν ἀπαρχαῖς εὐφιλῶν νυμφευμάτων
πρωτόσπορόν τι κῦμα, δυσγενὲς τέκος,
αὔρας πνοαῖσι παρανόμως ἐγείνατο,
φενακίσασά μ'· ἀργυρώνητος μάτην,
δῶρον προτεινάντων γὰρ οὐκ ἐδέξατο.
τρίς μου, λιταῖς σαίνουσα καὶ πολλῷ στίνῳ
πλάσασ' ἔρωτα, τὸν μάλ' ἄῤῥητον λ'γον

My capital secret, in what part my strength
Lay stored, in what part summed, that she might know;
Thrice I deluded her, and turned to sport
Her importunity, each time perceiving
How openly, and with what impudence,
She purposed to betray me, and—which was worse
Than undissembled hate—with what contempt 400
She sought to make me traitor to myself.
Yet the fourth time, when, mustering all her wiles,
With blandished parlies, feminine assaults,
Tongue-batteries, she surceased not day nor night
To storm me over-watched, and wearied out,
At times when men seek most repose and rest,
I yielded, and unlocked her all my heart,
Who, with a grain of manhood well resolved,
Might easily have shook off all her snares;
But foul effeminacy held me yoked 410
Her bond-slave. O indignity! O blot
To honour and religion! servile mind
Rewarded well with servile punishment!
The base degree to which I now am fallen,
These rags, this grinding is not yet so base,

ὅπου τὸ θησαυρισθὲν ἐνναίοι σθένος,
ὑπεξέκλεπτεν· ἀντιμηχανωμένου δ'
ἐμοῦ, τρὶς ὕβριν τοῦ μ' ἐνοχλοῦντος τρόπου 410
ἀπηύρατ', ὡς καὶ δῆλος ἦν ἑκάστοτε
τόνδ' ἄνδρ' ἐνεδρεύουσ', ἀναίσχυντον στόμα·
καὶ πρὸς, σφαλῆναι τοῖς ἐμοῖς αὐτὸν λόγοις
παρῆγέ με σκώπτουσα· τοιαύτης ἐγὼ
προειλόμην ἂν ἥτις ἐκ προὔπτου στυγοῖ.
τέλος δ', ἐπεὶ στόμαργος ἤθροισεν δόλους,
γυναικοβούλων τ' ἐμβολαῖς προσφθεγμάτων
ἐπέκειτο πάννυχός τε καὶ πανήμερος
ἤδη καμόντι καὶ κατ' ἄνθρωπον πόνων
ἄμπαυλαν ἀμφέποντι καὶ λήθην κακῶν 420
εἶξας ἔδειξα τὰν φρεσὶν κεκρυμμένα.
ἀλλ' εἴ γε καὶ πολλοστὸν ἀνδρείας παρῆν,
ἔμοιγ' ἀμοχθὶ καταγέλαστος ᾤχετ' ἄν.
ἀνθ' ὧν ἀεικὲς ἤνεσ', οἷα θηλύνους,
ζυγὸν γυναικὸς, οὐδ' ἔτ' ἐκφεύγειν ἐνῆν,
Θεοῦ τ' ὄνειδος, τοῦ τ' ἐν ἀνθρώποις κλέους.
φρονῶν τὰ δούλων, δουλίαν ἐκτησάμην.
προὔχει δὲ τῆς νῦν ἡ πάροιθεν αἰσχρότης,
εἰ καὶ ῥακῶδες εἷμα καὶ στερῥὸν πόνον

As was my former servitude, ignoble,
Unmanly, ignominious, infamous,
True slavery, and that blindness worse than this,
That saw not how degenerately I served.

MANOAH.

I cannot praise thy marriage choices, son, 420
Rather approved them not; but thou didst plead
Divine impulsion prompting how thou mightest
Find some occasion to infest our foes.
I state not that; this I am sure, our foes
Found soon occasion thereby to make thee
Their captive, and their triumph; thou the sooner
Temptation foundest, or over-potent charms,
To violate the sacred trust of silence
Deposited within thee; which to have kept
Tacit, was in thy power: true; and thou bearest 430
Enough, and more, the burden of that fault;
Bitterly hast thou paid, and still art paying,
That rigid score; a worse thing yet remains.
This day the Philistines a popular feast
Here celebrate in Gaza; and proclaim
Great pomp, and sacrifice, and praises loud,
To Dagon, as their god, who hath delivered

εἴληχ' · ἐπεὶ βάναυσον, οὐδ' ἐν ἀνδράσι 430
πρέποντα, δυσκλεᾶ τε, τὸν τὸ πρὶν χρόνον
σαφῶς ξύνοιδ' ἄτιμος ἐκτρίψας βίον,
καὶ σφόδρα δοῦλος καὶ πλέον τοῦ νῦν τυφλός·
γένος γὰρ ἠτίμαζον, οὐδ' ἔγνων τόδε.

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ὦ τέκνον, οὐδ' ἔμοιγ' ἐπαινετὸς δοκεῖ,
μᾶλλον δ' ἀηδὴς, σῶν γάμων προαίρεσις·
σὺ δ', ὡς ἐπ' ἐχθροὺς θεόθεν, εἰ τλαίης τάδε,
σχήσων ἀφορμὴν, πρόφασιν ἐσκήψω λέχη·
ἀλλ' οὐ, τόδ' εἰπὼν, ἔμ' ἂν ἔχοις ξυμμάρτυρα.
τοσοῦτον οἶδα· καίρι' ἦν αὐτοῖς τάδε, 440
σοί γ' αἰχμαλώτῳ γαυριᾶν· αὐτὸν δέ σε
καὶ θᾶσσον ἐκ τῶν δυσγάμων ὁμιλιῶν,
ὑπερβιασθέντ' εὐθέτοις μαγεύμασι
σιγὴν προδοῦναι, σοὶ Θεοῦ πιστὸν γέρας,
ἐξὸν φυλάσσειν· οἱ δὲ τῆσδ' ἁμαρτίας
πικρὸν μάλ' ἐκπράσσουσί σ' ἐς τὰ νῦν χρέος,
πλέον γε τοῦ δέοντος· αἰσχίω δ' ἔτι
παραυτίκ' ἔσται, τῶν Φιλιστίνων ὕπο
κοινὴν ἑορτὴν ἐν πόλει ποιουμένων.
τῷ γὰρ Δάγωνι, τῆσδε τῆς χώρας θεῷ, 450

Thee, Samson, bound and blind into their hands,
Them out of thine, who slewest them many a slain.
So Dagon shall be magnified, and God, 440
Beside whom is no god, compared with idols,
Disglorified, blasphemed, and had in scorn,
By the idolatrous rout amidst their wine;
Which to have come to pass by means of thee,
Samson, of all thy sufferings think the heaviest,
Of all reproach the most with shame that ever
Could have befallen thee and thy father's house.

SAMSON.

Father, I do acknowledge and confess
That I this honour, I this pomp have brought
To Dagon, and advanced his praises high 450
Among the Heathen round; to God have brought
Dishonour, obloquy, and oped the mouths
Of idoists and atheists; have brought scandal
To Israel, diffidence of God, and doubt
In feeble hearts, propense enough before
To waver, or fall off and join with idols;
Which is my chief affliction, shame and sorrow,
The anguish of my soul, that suffers not

σεμνῷ θυηπολοῦντες ὑμνοῦσιν χορῷ,
ἐπεὶ σὲ, τὸν Σάμψωνα, τὸν πολυκτόνον,
τυφλόν τε δέσμιόν τε τῶν ἐχθρῶν λόχοις
ἐγχειρίσας ἔδωκε, κἄσωσεν πόλιν.
ὄνομα μὲν οὖν Δάγωνος ἐξαρθήσεται·
Θεοῦ δ' ἀκοινώνητον αἰσχυνεῖ σέβας,
ταῖς χειροκμήτοις παραβαλὼν νιν εἰκόσιν,
οἰνοπλάνητος συρφετὸς θεοστυγής.
σὺ δ' αὖ τοσούτων αἴτιος γεγὼς κακῶν,
σαὐτὸν μέγιστον ἴσθι πῆμ' εἰργασμένος 460
ἡμᾶς τ' ὄνειδος, ὧν ποτ' ἂν τυχεῖν παρῆν.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

πάτερ, ξυνήγορόν με τοῖς λόγοις ἔχεις,
αὐτὸν πορόντα τῷ Δάγωνι τιμίαν
δόξαν παρ' ἀστοῖς, ἔν τε γείτοσιν κλέος·
ἐμοῦ δ' ἕκατι λοιδορούμενοι Θεῷ,
αὐτοὶ ματαίων ψευδοκήρυκες θεῶν,
γελῶσι· πρὸς δὲ τοῖσδε παγκακῶς κλύειν
καὶ τοὺς πολίτας, ὥστε διαβαλεῖν Θεὸν
τοὺς καὶ πάροιθε δειλίᾳ δεδμημένους,
ἀντ' εὐσεβούντων δυσσεβοῦντας· οἷς ἐγὼ 470
αἰσχύνομαι μάλιστα, κἀποδύρομαι,

Mine eye to harbour sleep, or thoughts to rest.
This only hope relieves me, that the strife 460
With me hath end; all the contest is now
'Twixt God and Dagon. Dagon hath presumed,
Me overthrown, to enter lists with God,
His deity comparing and preferring
Before the God of Abraham: He, be sure,
Will not connive or linger, thus provoked,
But will arise, and his great name assert.
Dagon must stoop, and shall ere long receive
Such a discomfit, as shall quite despoil him
Of all these boasted trophies won on me, 470
And with confusion blank his worshippers.

MANOAH.

With cause this hope relieves thee, and these words
I as a prophecy receive, for God—
Nothing more certain—will not long defer
To vindicate the glory of his name
Against all competition, nor will long
Endure it doubtful whether God be Lord,
Or Dagon. But for thee what shall be done?

νύκτωρ ἀΰπνος, φρενομανὴς καθ' ἡμέραν.
οὐδ' ἐστὶν εἰ μὴ τοῦτο θέλγητρον κακῶν,
ἔμ' ἐξαμιλληθέντα τῆς μάχης, μόνοιν
Θεῷ τε καὶ Δάγωνι παραδεδωκέναι.
τῷ Πατρίῳ γὰρ ἀνταγωνίστην Θεῷ
τλὰς οὗτος, ὡς ἔμουγε κειμένου σαφῶς,
αὑτὸν παρασχεῖν, θειότητος ἐξόχων
ὠρέξατ' ἄθλων· τοῦτο δ' ἔμπεδον λέγω,
τὸν Δαίμον' οὔτε χρόνιον οὔτ' ὥρας ἄτερ 480
δείξειν ἀναστάνθ' οἷος ὑβρίσθη Θεός·
κείνῳ δ' ὑπεικτέον τε, χὢν ἀφήρπασε
πάντων τροπαίων γάνος ἀφαιρεθήσεται·
φόβον δ' ἀμείψουσ' οἵ νιν ὕμνησαν τὸ πρίν.

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ἀληθόμαντιν ἐλπίδ', ἥ σ' ἐκούφισεν,
ὦ παῖ, δέδεγμαι, διὰ τάχους πεπεισμένος
ἴδιον σέβας τηροῦντι καὶ κράτος Θεῷ,
ὅστις ποτ' ἂν νῦν ἀνθαμιλλᾶσθαι θέλῃ·
οὐδ' ἀμφιλέκτους, ὧν Δάγων ἀνθάπτεται,
θρόνους ἐάσει· σοῦ δ' ὕπερ τί δεῖ ποιεῖν 490
ἐν τῷ μεταξὺ τῶνδ', ἃ προὔγνωκας, χρόνῳ;

Thou must not in the mean while, here forgot,
Lie in this miserable loathsome plight, 480
Neglected. I already have made way
To some Philistian lords, with whom to treat
About thy ransom: well they may by this
Have satisfied their utmost of revenge,
By pains and slaveries, worse than death, inflicted
On thee, who now no more canst do them harm.

SAMSON.

Spare that proposal, father, spare the trouble
Of that solicitation: let me here,
As I deserve, pay on my punishment;
And expiate, if possible, my crime, 490
Shameful garrulity. To have revealed
Secrets of men, the secrets of a friend,
How heinous had the fact been, how deserving
Contempt and scorn of all, to be excluded
All friendship, and avoided as a blab,
The mark of fool set on his front! But I
God's counsel have not kept, his holy secret
Presumptuously have published, impiously,
Weakly at least and shamefully—a sin

οὐ γὰρ θέμις, λαθόντα καὶ φίλων ἄτερ,
κεῖσθαι πινώδους ἐν δύαις ἀλγηδόνος.
πρὸς ταῦτ' ἔγωγε τῶν Φιλιστίνων τισὶν
ἤδη ξυνῆλθον, τῶν λύτρων τῶν σῶν πέρι
σπονδὰς προτείνων· καὶ γὰρ οὖν αὐτοὺς πάλαι
δεῖ τῶν ἀπλήστων σῶν κορεσθῆναι κακῶν,
τοῦ μηκέτ' ἀνθέξοντος, ἐν δεσμῶν πέδαις,
ἐχθρῶν ἐφορμαῖς.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

μὴ σύ γ' ἐν τούτοις, πάτερ,
κάμῃς· ἀχρείων δεῖ σ' ἀποσχέσθαι λιτῶν, 500
ἐμοῦγε τὸν δίκαιον ἀντλοῦντος πόνον,
ἀσχήμονός μοι ζημίαν γλωσσαλγίας.
καὶ γὰρ φίλου ποτ' ἀνδρὸς ἄτλητον δοκεῖ
λόγους προδοῦναι τοὺς παρηγγυημένους,
τῶν δ' οὕνεκ' ἐκπίπτει τε καὶ πάντων ὕπο
ἀπαξιοῦται μὴ οὐχ ἑταιρείας τυχεῖν
ὁ ταῦτα δράσας, μωρίαν ἐστιγμένος,
καὶ φευκτὸς, ἀθυρόγλωσσος ὡς, ἐν ἀνδράσι·
Θεοῦ δ' ἐγὼ βούλευμα κἄῤῥητον γέρας
ἔῤῥιψ' ἀναιδὴς, ἄθεος, εἰ δὲ μὴ, φρενῶν 510
ἐν ἀσθενείᾳ, καταγέλαστος ἐν πόλει.

That Gentiles in their parables condemn 500
To their abyss and horrid pains confined.

MANOAH.

Be penitent, and for thy fault contrite,
But act not in thy own affliction, son.
Repent the sin, but if the punishment
Thou canst avoid, self-preservation bids;
Or the execution leave to high disposal,
And let another hand, not thine, exact
Thy penal forfeit from thyself. Perhaps
God will relent, and quit thee all his debt;
Who ever more approves and more accepts 510
(Best pleased with humble and filial submission)
Him who, imploring mercy, sues for life,
Than who, self-rigorous, chooses death as due;
Which argues over-just, and self-displeased
For self-offence, more than for God offended.
Reject not then what offered means. Who knows
But God hath set before us to return thee
Home to thy country and his sacred house,

καὶ βάρβαροι δὲ νερτέροισιν ἐν βύθοις
πέδας τε πολυδάκρυτά τ' ἀθλῆσαι πάθη
τοιούσδ' ἔκριναν, μυθοποιοῦντες καλῶς.

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

κλαίειν πρέπει γὰρ οἷσιν ἥμαρτες, τέκνον,
ἀλλ' οὐ τὰ σαυτοῦ πήματ' αὐτὸν ἐκτελεῖν·
ταῦτα στενάζειν ἔστι, τὴν δ' ὀπισθόπουν
δίκην ἀλύξας, σαυτὸν ἂν σώζοις· καλῶς·
ἢ τῷ μέδοντι τήνδε τὴν ποινὴν ἔα,
μηδ' αὐτόχειρ, δράσας περ, ἐν μέρει πάθῃς. 520
τί δῆθ'; ὁ Δαίμων πᾶν τόδ' ἂν χρέος πρόφρων
τάχ' ἂν μεθείη, κάρτ' ἐν εὐνοίᾳ τρέφων
νοῦν τὸν ταπεινὸν, οἷος ἐν παισὶν πρέπει·
οὐδ' ἂν προείλεθ' ὃς δίκην αὐτοκτόνος
ὑπερθορὼν ἀπέθανε, τόνδε δ' ὃς Θεὸν
τὸ ζῆν παραιτησάμενος ἀπέλαβεν λιταῖς.
κεῖνος γὰρ αὑτοῦ μᾶλλον ἢ Θεοῦ βλάβας
ἔτισεν αὐτόκλητος· ἄσμενος μὲν οὖν
δέχου τὰ σοὶ προκείμεν', ὡς ἡμῖν ἴσως
Θεοῦ τόδ' ἐπιτρέψαντος, εἰς πόλιν σὲ σὴν 530
ἄγειν κατελθόνθ', ἱερὸν εἰς ναοῦ βάθρον.

Where thou mayest bring thy offerings, to avert
His further ire, with prayers and vows renewed? 520

SAMSON.

His pardon I implore; but as for life,
To what end should I seek it? when in strength
All mortals I excelled, and great in hopes,
With youthful courage, and magnanimous thoughts
Of birth from Heaven foretold, and high exploits,
Full of divine instinct, after some proof
Of acts indeed heroic, far beyond
The sons of Anak, famous now and blazed,
Fearless of danger, like a petty god
I walked about, admired of all and dreaded 530
On hostile ground, none daring my affront.
Then, swollen with pride, into the snare I fell
Of fair fallacious looks, venereal trains,
Softened with pleasure and voluptuous life;
At length to lay my head and hallowed pledge
Of all my strength in the lascivious lap
Of a deceitful concubine, who shore me
Like a tame wether, all my precious fleece,
Then turned me out ridiculous, despoiled,
Shaven, and disarmed among mine enemies. 540

ὅπου σε προστρόπαιον ἕξεσται πάλιν
δεινὸν λιταῖσιν ἀποκαθήρασθαι κότον.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ξύμφημι καὐτὸς, ὥστε συγγνώμης τυχεῖν·
οὐχ, ὥστ' ἀκερδὲς ζῆν· ἐπεὶ νέος πάλαι
πάντων προεῖχον σώματος ῥώμῃ βροτῶν,
θράσει τε μεγαλόθυμος ἡβώσης φρενὸς,
γεγώς τ' ἀριστεύων τε προγνόντος Θεοῦ,
ἔδειξα κλεινῶν Ἀνακιδῶν ὑπέρτερα
ἔργ', οἷον ἥρως, ἐνθέῳ ψυχῆς μένει· 540
ὡς γὰρ θεός τις, ὥς γ' ἐν ἀνθρώποις δοκεῖν,
ἄφοβος ἐφοίτων, περιβόητος, οὐδ' ἔτλη
οὐδείς μ' ὑβρίζων κερτομεῖν, ἐχθρός περ ὤν.
ἀλλ' εὐπροσώπου δολοφόνοις μαγεύμασιν
ἔρωτος ἡδονῆς τε περιπεσὼν πάγαις,
τρυφῇ τ' ἀχρείᾳ καρδίας τ' ὄγκῳ σφριγῶν,
ὅσιόν τε κρᾶτα καὶ σθένους ἐχέγγυον
ἐν τῆς ἀπίστου παλλακῆς κόλποις φόβην
ῥίψας, τὸ πᾶν ἀπώλεσ' εὔμαλλον γάνος,
οἷος κτίλος τις τιθασὸς ἀποκεκαρμένος. 550
δράσασα δ', ἐχθροῖς αὐτίχ' ἥδ' ἔδωκέ με,
γυμνόν τε καὶ γελαστὸν ἐξεωσμένον.

CHORUS.

Desire of wine and all delicious drinks,
Which many a famous warrior overturns,
Thou couldest repress; nor did the dancing ruby,
Sparkling, out-poured, the flavour, or the smell,
Or taste, that cheers the hearts of gods and men,
Allure thee from the cool crystalline stream.

SAMSON.

Wherever fountain or fresh current flowed
Against the eastern ray, translucent, pure
With touch ethereal of Heaven's fiery rod,
I drank, from the clear milky juice allaying 550
Thirst, and refreshed; nor envied them the grape
Whose heads that turbulent liquor fills with fumes.

CHORUS.

O madness! to think use of strongest wines
And strongest drinks our chief support of health;
When God with these forbidden made choice to rear
His mighty champion, strong above compare,
Whose drink was only from the liquid brook.

SAMSON.

But what availed this temperance, not complete
Against another object more enticing?

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

πολλοὺς μὲν ἤδη τῶν ἀγακλειτῶν μάχαις
οἴνου πόθος δέδμηκε καὶ τερπνῶν ποτῶν.
σοὶ δ' ἦν κρατῆσαι τῶνδε· καὶ γὰρ οὔποτε
σκιρτῶντ', ἐρυθρά θ', ἡδύοσμα πώματα,
βροτῶν θεῶν τε χάρμα γεύσασθαι γλυκὺ,
ψυχρᾶς παρεξέτρεψέ σ' ὑαλίνης ῥοῆς.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

εἰ γάρ ποτ' ὀρθρίαισιν ἀντία βολαῖς
πηγῶν λιβάς τις διαφανῶν ἀπόῤῥεοι, 560
αἰθρηγενεῖ ξύνοικος οὐρανοῦ φλογὶ,
δίψης ἀρωγὸν καθαρὸν ἐμμίξας γάλα
ἔπινον· οὐ γὰρ ἐφθόνουν ὃν ἀμπέλου
σφοδρὸν ταράσσοι καὶ φρενοπληγὲς μέθυ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

φεῦ τῆς ἀνοίας, ὅς γε τὴν ῥώμην τρέφων
αἰνῶν ποτῶν ἐγεύσατ', οὐδ' ἐφρόντισε
Θεὸν τὸν ἄκρον τόνδε, τὸν μεγασθενῆ
θρέψαι μαχήτην, εὔροον πίνονθ' ὕδωρ.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἀλλ', ὡς κρατούντων οἷς ἐτερπόμην πλέον,
τί μοι τὸ κέρδος τοῦδε σώφρονος τρόπου; 570

What boots it at one gate to make defence, 560
And at another to let in the foe,
Effeminately vanquished? by which means,
Now blind, disheartened, shamed, dishonoured, quelled,
To what can I be useful? wherein serve
My nation, and the work from Heaven imposed,
But to sit idle on the household hearth,
A burdenous drone, to visitants a gaze,
Or pitied object, these redundant locks
Robustious, to no purpose clustering down,
Vain monument of strength, till length of years 570
And sedentary numbness craze my limbs,
To a contemptible old age obscure?
Here rather let me drudge, and earn my bread;
Till vermin, or the draff of servile food,
Consume me, and oft-invocated death
Hasten the welcome end of all my pains.

MANOAH.

Wilt thou then serve the Philistines with that gift
Which was expressly given thee to annoy them?
Better at home lie bed-rid, not only idle,
Inglorious, unemployed, with age outworn. 580

μιᾶς τί χρὴ τὸν ἐχθρὸν εἰργαθεῖν πύλης,
ἑτέραν ἄφρουρον ὑπερορῶντ' ἀνάλκιδα;
ἐξ ὧν τυφλός τε, λήματός τ' ἀθυμίᾳ
ἄτιμος ἄλλως, οὐδὲν ἂν πόλεως ὕπερ
δράσαιμ', ἀνωφελοῦς δὲ κηφῆνος δίκην,
οἴκοι τε θάσσων, τῶν Θεοῦ τεταγμένων
ἔργων λέλησμαι, τοῖσι παρατυχοῦσί μοι
ἰδεῖν ἐλεινός· οἷσι δ' εὔκομός ποτε
ἴσχυον, ὡς μνημεῖα τοῦ πάλαι σθένους
μάτην κέχυνται βόστρυχοι· τέλος δέ με, 580
μελῶν ἀμαυρῷ λελυμένων ἀπραξίᾳ,
μάρψει μάλ' αἰσχρὸν τέρμ' ἀλύοντος βίου.
τοιγὰρ πικρὰν πρέπει με κερδαίνειν τροφὴν
ἀνελευθέροις πόνοισιν, ἔστ' ἂν ἀσμένῳ,
εὐλαῖς φθαρέντι καὶ κακορρύπῳ βορᾷ,
πάντων ὅσων πέπονθα λωφῆσαι διδῷ
πολλαῖσί μοι 'πίκλητος εὐχαῖσιν μόρος.

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ἆρ' οὖν ἐπ' ἄτῃ τῶν Φιλιστίνων γέρας
λαβὼν, ὀφέλλων σφᾶς διαστρέψεις τόδε;
ἢ μὴν λεχήρη μᾶλλον ἐρρίφθαι σ' ἔδει 590
ἀργὸν παρηβήσαντ', ἀτίμητον Βροτοῖς.

But God, who caused a fountain at thy prayer
From the dry ground to spring, thy thirst to allay
After the brunt of battle, can as easy
Cause light again within thy eyes to spring,
Wherewith to serve him better than thou hast.
And I persuade me so; why else this strength
Miraculous yet remaining in those locks?
His might continues in thee not for nought,
Nor shall his wondrous gifts be frustrate thus.

SAMSON.

All otherwise to me my thoughts portend; 590
That these dark orbs no more shall treat with light,
Nor the other light of life continue long,
But yield to double darkness nigh at hand:
So much I feel my genial spirits droop,
My hopes all flat, Nature within me seems
In all her functions weary of herself;
My race of glory run, and race of shame,
And I shall shortly be with them that rest.

MANOAH.

Believe not these suggestions, which proceed

Θεὸς δ', ὁ κρήνην ἐκ χθονὸς ξηρᾶς τὸ πρὶν
φλῦσαι κελεύσας, ἐκ μάχης κεκμηκότος
σοῦ προσκαλοῦντος, τήν τε σὴν δίψαν σβέσας,
ἄψορρον αὖθις σοῖσιν ὀφθαλμοῖς τὸ φῶς
τάχ' ἂν πορίζοι, τήν γε σὴν λειτουργίαν
ἔχειν ἀμείνω τοῦ παρελθόντος χρόνου·
οὐδ' ἔστ' ἔμοιγε τοῖσδε μὴ πεποιθέναι.
τί γὰρ τόδ' ἐν κόμαισι τερατῶδες σθένος
ἔτ' ἔστιν, εἰ μὴ τῆς Θεοῦ βουλῆς χάριν; 600
αὐτοῦ τὸ δῶρον, οὐ μάτην εἰργασμένου.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἦ κάρτα τούτοις ἅπερ ἐγὼ μαντεύομαι
ἐναντιοῦται· νυκτὶ δὴ τῶνδ' ὀμμάτων
ἄσπονδον εἶναι φῶς, τό τε ψυχῆς σέλας
διπλῷ τάχος βραχύβιον ἐκλείψειν σκότῳ·
τόσην ἀνίαν ὧδ' ἄθυμος ᾐσθόμην
δύσελπις, ἡ φύσις τε, τῶν φρενῶν τροφὸς,
ἔδοξ' ἀπειπεῖν ἐς τὸ πᾶν· ἃ δ' ἤνυσα
κύδει προκόπτων, εἶτ' ἐπ' αἰσχύνην πεσὼν,
πρὸς τέρμ' ἀφιγμένν', ἐν βραχεῖ κιχήσομαι 610
τοὺς ἐκ παλαιῶν ἡσυχάζοντας πόνων.

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

σὺ δ' οὐκ ἂν ὀρθῶς τῶνδέ γ' ἔννοιαν τρέφοις,

From anguish of the mind and humours black, 600
That mingle with thy fancy. I, however,
Must not omit a father's timely care
To prosecute the means of thy deliverance,
By ransom or how else. Mean while be calm,
And healing words from these thy friends admit.

SAMSON.

Oh! that torment should not be confined
To the body's wounds and sores,
With maladies innumerable,
In heart, head, breast, and reins;
But must secret passage find 610
To the inmost mind,
There exercise all his fierce accidents,
And on her purest spirits prey,
As on entrails, joints, and limbs,
With answerable pains, but more intense,
Though void of corporal sense.
My griefs not only pain me
As a lingering disease,

τὴν δηξιθύμων ἐκπεφυκυῖαν παθῶν
μελαγχόλων τε τῆς φρενὸς φαντασμάτων·
ἐμοὶ δὲ δεῖ, λύτροισιν εἴτ' ἄλλῳ τρόπῳ,
ἐλευθεροῦν σε, καιρίαν σπουδὴν πατρί·
τὰ μὲν παρόντα στέρξον εὐκήλῳ φρενὶ,
δέχου δὲ μύθους τῶν φίλων θελκτηρίους.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

φεῦ, φεῦ,
τάδε μὴ 'ν κραδίαις καὶ
στήθεσι καὶ κεφαλαῖς μόναις πεσόντα
ἀνάριθμα μελῶν ἄχη,
ψυχᾶς βάθος ἄγνωστον
κρυφαίαις εἰσόδοις
ἐπελθεῖν,
ὅσ' ἔνεστιν καθαρώτατα
στρεβλοῦντ' αἰνοτάταις δύαις,
ὡς κατ' ἄρθρα καὶ ἔντερα,
ἀλγίω δ' ἔτι καρτερεῖν,
εἰ καὶ σώματος ἔξεδρα.
οὐδ' ὀδύναις μόνον
ὡς χρονίας νόσου δέδηγμαι·

But, finding no redress, ferment and rage;
Nor less than wounds immedicable 620
Rankle, and fester, and gangrene,
To black mortification.
Thoughts, my tormentors, armed with deadly stings,
Mangle my apprehensive tenderest parts,
Exasperate, exulcerate, and raise
Dire inflammation, which no cooling herb
Or medicinal liquor can assuage,
Nor breath of vernal air from snowy Alp.
Sleep hath forsook and given me o'er
To death's benumbing opium as my only cure; 630
Thence faintings, swoonings of despair,
And sense of Heaven's desertion.
I was His nursling once, and choice delight,
His destined from the womb,

ἐξανθοῦντα πυώδεσι
φλυκταίναις πυρετοῦ, ζέσαντ'
ἀνίατα σέσηπεν ἕλκη
σφακέλῳ κελαίνῳ·
ἃ δὲ καλχαίνω, σίνος ἐν ψυχᾷ
μέγα κεντρομανὲς, τὸ μάλιστ' αὐτᾶς
εὐαίσθητον δεινὰ διασπᾷ,
καὶ καταμύσσει φρένας οἰστροδόνους, 640
καύματ' ἐγείρανθ', οἷς ἂν ἐπῳδὰς
οὐ πάρεχοι ποτὸν εὐμενὲς, οὐ φυτὰ
κηλητήρια,
βουνῶν τ' αὖραι χιονωδῶν.
ὕπνος βλεφάρων φροῦδος ἀπέστη,
καὶ νηπενθὲς θανάτου δῶρον
μόνον αὔταρκες·
παπαῖ, παπαῖ,
κάρτα δύσελπις καὶ φρέν' ἀθυμῶν
ἐπτοιήθην θεομισὴς, 650
ὃς ἦ
τὸ πάλαι τοῦ Σεμνοῦ,
οἷά τις εὐφιλόπαις ἔθρεψε τέκνον,

Promised by heavenly message twice descending.
Under his special eye
Abstemious I grew up, and thrived amain.
He led me on to mightiest deeds,
Above the nerve of mortal arm,
Against the uncircumcised, our enemies. 640
But now hath cast me off, as never known,
And to those cruel enemies,
Whom I by his appointment had provoked,
Left me all helpless, with the irreparable loss
Of sight, reserved alive to be repeated
The subject of their cruelty or scorn.
Nor am I in the list of them that hope;
Hopeless are all my evils, all remediless.
This one prayer yet remains, might I be heard,
No long petition, speedy death, 650
The close of all my miseries, and the balm.

ὡσεὶ τηλύγετος γεγὼς,
δὶς θεόθεν κηρυχθέντ'
ἄνων μαντεύματα.
ὑφ' οὗ προη-
-γητοῦ, φρενὸς ἐγκρατὴς,
ἥβας ἐς τέλος ἱκόμαν,
θνατοῦ τ' ἔργον ὑπερδραμὼν 660
ἠρίστευσ' ἐπὶ βαρβάρους.
ἀπερῥιμμένον αὖ τὰ νῦν
ἐχθοδοπόν τ' ἐᾷ,
αὐτὸς ἐμ' ὃς μάχαν κελεύσε,
ζωγρηθέντ', ἀλαόν τ' ἰδεῖν,
ὧν οὐκ ἄν τις ἄκος φέροι,
σκοπὸν τοῖσδ' ὕβρεώς τε κἀπασ-
-συτέρων ὀνειδῶν.
οὐδ' ἐς ἐκείνους ἔστι τελεῖν μοι,
τοὺς εὐέλπιδας, οὐ γὰρ ἔτ' ἐλπίδες, 670
οὔτις ἀνιῶν, φεῦ, θεραπεία,
πλὴν τόδε δῶρον Θεοῦ πάρα μέτριον,
ὡς δὲ τόδ' ὤφελον εὐχαῖσι λαβεῖν,
τέρμ' ὀδύναισιν,
θάνατος, μῆχαρ ταχύπομπον.

CHORUS.

Many are the sayings of the wise,
In ancient and in modern books inrolled,
Extolling patience as the truest fortitude;
And to the bearing well of all calamities,
All chances incident to man's frail life,
Consolatories writ
With studied argument, and much persuasion sought,
Lenient of grief and anxious thought.
But with the afflicted in his pangs their sound 660
Little prevails, or rather seems a tune
Harsh, and of dissonant mood from his complaint;
Unless he feel within
Some source of consolation from above,
Secret refreshings, that repair his strength,
And fainting spirits uphold.
God of our fathers, what is man?
That thou toward him with hand so various—
Or might I say contrarious?—
Temperest thy providence through his short course; 670
Not evenly, as thou rulest
The angelic orders and inferior creatures mute,

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἦ μάλα πολλὰ σοφαῖς ἔνι κείμενα ῥήματα βίβλοις,
νῦν ἔν τε τῷ πάλαι χρόνῳ,
ἆθλον ἀριστείας τοῖς τλασιπόνοισιν ἔδωκεν·
ἐστὶν δ' ὅσα δεινὰ βροτοῖσιν,
ὅσσ' ἀμενηνὸν ἔχει μερόπων γένος 680
ἐξαντλεῖν, ἐπὶ τοῖσδε γεγραμμέναι
εἰσὶν ἐπῳδαὶ,
σαίνοντ' εὔθετ' ἔπη, ὀλοῶν θέλγητρα μεριμνῶν.
δυστάνῳ δ', ἀλύρου τρόπον ἁρμονίας παραμούσου,
μάταιος οἴχεται ψόφος
ἐκ τούτων· ὁ δ' ἔναυλον ἔχων θεόθεν μείλικτρον,
κρυπτὰν ἀρετᾶς τιν' ἀφορμὰν
καὶ παλίνορσον ἐνῆκε φρεσὶν μένος.
ἦ, Πατρώϊε, ποικιλοβούλου
κἀξυμβλήτου 690
χειρὸς ἐπήσθετο σᾶς γένος ἀνθρώπων ταχύποτμον·
οὐχ ὁμαλὸν, ὡς μακάρων χοροῦ
ἢ νηπίων, ἄναξ, βοτῶν ἀλόγων, μέδεις·
οὐδὲ λέγοιμ' ἂν
τόνδ' ἀδιάκριτον ὄχλον ἀλητῶν

Irrational and brute.
Nor do I name of men the common rout,
That, wandering loose about,
Grow up and perish, as the summer fly,
Heads without name, no more remembered;
But such as thou hast solemnly elected,
With gifts and graces eminently adorned,
To some great work, thy glory, 680
And people's safety, which in part they effect.
Yet toward these thus dignified thou oft,
Amidst their highth of noon,
Changest thy countenance and thy hand, with no regard
Of highest favours past
From thee on them, or them to thee of service.
Nor only dost degrade them, or remit
To life obscured, which were a fair dismission;
But throwest them lower than thou didst exalt them high,
Unseemly falls in human eye, 690
Too grievous for the trespass or omission.
Oft leavest them to the hostile sword
Of heathen and profane, their carcasses
To dogs and fowls a prey, or else captived,

μνιῶν τρόπον ὀλλυμένων θεροεσσῶν,
ἀνωνύμους
ἀργῶν κεφαλὰς ἀμνάστους·
οὐκ, ἀλλ' οἷουσπερ
ἀρετᾶς ἄτε δῶρον ἔχοντας, 700
δείξας μεγάλοις αὐτὸς ἐπ' ἔργοις,
τῶν σῶν χάριν σέθεν τε
ἔν τε τοῖσδ' ἡμιτελέστοις
συχνᾷ μεταλλαγᾷ μεσαμερίου φάους
κάββαλες, οὐδ' ὧν
αὐτὸς ἔδωκας καὐτὸς ἀπηύρω
ἐστὶν μελέδημά σοι, οὐδ' ἐριτίμων.
τοὺς δ' οὐ μόνον
πότμῳ κολάσας ἐπιεικεῖ
παθεῖν ἀφῆκας, 710
πλέον ἢ κατὰ τὸν πάλαι ὄλβον,
ὧν θ' ἥμαρτον, ἐν οἷσίν τ' ἤμπλακον,
αἴσχιστ' ἰδεῖν πεσόντας·
ἢ βιαίῳ πολέμῳ,
πτανοῖς τε κύρμα καὶ κυσὶν,
ἐχθροῖσι βαρβάροισι καὶ βεβήλοις,
ἢ σώματ' αἰχμάλωτ' ἀπορρίψας ἐᾷς,

Or to the unjust tribunals, under change of times,
And condemnation of the ingrateful multitude.
If these they 'scape, perhaps in poverty
With sickness and disease, thou bowest them down,
Painful diseases and deformed,
In crude old age; 700
Though not disordinate, yet causeless suffering,
The punishment of dissolute days. In fine,
Just or unjust, alike seem miserable,
For oft alike both come to evil end.

So deal not with this once thy glorious champion,
The image of thy strength, and mighty minister.
What do I beg? how hast thou dealt already?
Behold him in this state calamitous, and turn
His labours, for thou canst, to peaceful end.

εἴτ', ἐν χρόνων ἀλλαγαῖς,
ἀχαρίτων πολιτῶν
δίκαις ἀδίκοις· τάδε δ' εἴ τις 720
διέφυγεν, πένητα
πηρόν τε καὶ γεραιὸν ἀλ-
-γηδόσιν διαστρέφεις.
καὶ τοὺς οὐκ ἀτάκτους
ἀταξίας σὺ ποινὰν
ὦ Πάτερ, ἀλόγοις νόμοις ἔπραξας.
ὡς δὲ συνελόντι λέγειν,
πότμον λέλογχ' ἀδιάφορον
σὰ θέσμ' ὁ παραλιπών τε χὠ φυλάξας,
ἄμφω τὸ πλεῖστον ἐξ ἴσης ἐφθαρμένω. 730
μὴ τὸν πάλαι παμμέγαν,
λήματός τε θείου
αὐτὸν, θεὸν ὡς δυνάμει, δι-
-άκονον φέριστον,
αἴκιζε τοῖσδ' ἀντίσταθμα·
ἤκισας μὲν, ἤκισας·
ἀλλ' ὦ πάντα νωμῶν,
ἰδών νιν ὧδ' ἐλεινὸν,
δὸς φρενογαθῆ πόνων τελευτάν.

But who is this? what thing of sea or land— 710
Female of sex it seems—
That so bedecked, ornate, and gay,
Comes this way sailing,
Like a stately ship
Of Tarsus, bound for the isles
Of Javan or Gadire,
With all her bravery on, and tackle trim,
Sails filled, and streamers waving,
Courted by all the winds that hold them play,
An amber scent of odorous perfume 720
Her harbinger, a damsel train behind?
Some rich Philistian matron she may seem;
And now at nearer view, no other certain
Than Dalila thy wife.

SAMSON.

My wife! my traitress; let her not come near me.

CHORUS.

Yet on she moves, now stands and eyes thee fixed,
About to have spoke; but now, with head declined,

τίς δ' ἄρα, πόντοθεν εἴτ' ἀπὸ χέρσου, 740
θήλει' ἐσιδεῖν, ἔρχεται ἡμῖν;
ἢ μάλα λαμπρῷ κόσμῳ τρυφερὰ,
χὡς ἀπὸ Ταρσοῦ ναῦς ὑψιφανὴς
νήσους Ἑλλάδος ἤ ποτ' Ἰβήρων
ποτινισσομένη, καλὸν αἰωρεῖ
στολμὸν ναυτικὸν, ἱστία λαμπρῶς
μετεώροισιν παρὰ σημείοις
ἀνέμου σαίνοντος ἀκραοῦς.
τῇδ' ἐναλίγκιος, ἀντὶ προπομποῦ
κηωέσσης ὀδμὴν αὔρας, 750
σὺν δ' ἀκολούθῳ χορῷ ἡγεῖται
καλλιθείρῳ· τοία γ' ἐσορᾶν
πολύδωρός τις μήτηρ εὔτεκνος
ὧδ' ἐπιχωρία· ἀλλ' ἐγγὺς ἰδὼν
σκεθρῶς ἔμαθον
τὴν σὴν, δύστηνε, γυναῖκα.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

τὴν γυναῖκα, τὴν προδοῦσαν; ἄπαγε, μὴ πελαζέτω.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἀλλ' ὅμως, ὄψιν βεβαίαν ὀμμάτων τετραμμένην
δεῦρ' ὁρῶ στείχουσαν, ἐν δὲ τῷ λαλεῖν ἐπαύσατο·

Like a fair flower surcharged with dew, she weeps,
And words addressed seem into tears dissolved,
Wetting the borders of her silken veil. 730
But now again she makes address to speak.

DALILA.

With doubtful feet and wavering resolution
I came, still dreading thy displeasure, Samson,
Which to have merited, without excuse,
I cannot but acknowledge; yet if tears
May expiate—though the fact more evil drew
In the perverse event than I foresaw—
My penance hath not slackened, though my pardon
No way assured. But conjugal affection,
Prevailing over fear and timorous doubt, 740
Hath led me on, desirous to behold
Once more thy face, and know of thy estate,
If aught in my ability may serve
To lighten what thou sufferest, and appease
Thy mind with what amends is in my power,
Though late, yet in some part to recompense
My rash, but more unfortunate, misdeed.

SAMSON.

Out, out, hyæna! these are thy wonted arts,

κρᾶτα δ' ἔστηκεν κατηφὴς, πολυδρόσου τ' ἄνθους δίκην
εὔχαρις κλαίουσα· τἄπη δ' ἐντέτηκε δακρύων 761
ἐκροαῖς, χείλη διαίνοντ' εὐϋφῶν καλυμμάτων·
τὸ δὲ δοκοῦν, φθέγξαιτ' ἂν ἤδη, δευτέροις βουλεύμασι.

ΔΗΛΙΛΗ.

ἥκω, ποδῶν βάδισμα καὶ βουλὰς φρενῶν,
σὸν γὰρ δέδοικα θυμὸν, αἰωρουμένη·
ὡς σοὶ μάλ' ὀρθῶς αἰτιωμένῳ τάδε
ξύμφημι· καίτοι, πραγμάτων καταστροφῇ,
ὧν γοῦν προῄδη πήματ' εἴργασμαι πλέω.
ἀλλ' εἴ γε δακρύουσαν ὧν αἰσχρῶς ἔδρων
λύτρον τελεῖν ἔξεστι, τοῦδέ γ' οὐδαμῶς 770
ἐπαυσάμην ποτ', οὐδὲ συγγνώμην ἔχω.
ἀνθ' ὧν, δάμαρτος ἱμέρῳ νικωμένη,
φόβον μεθεῖσα καὶ διχόῤῥοπον φρένα,
πάρειμι, τοῦ τέ σ' αὖθις ἀθρῆσαι πόθῳ,
καὶ πάντα δρασείουσά γ' ὧν σθένος πάρα,
παθῶν τ' ἐπῳδὰς ἀντίποινά θ' ὕβρεως.
ἄκαιρα μὲν τάδ', ὧν δ' ἔρεξ' ἀντίῤῥοπα,
πταίσασά γ' ἢ θέλουσα, πολλοστὸν μέρος.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἔῤῥ' αἰσχρόμητι, καὶ πάλαι τούτων ἴδρις,

And arts of every woman false like thee,
To break all faith, all vows, deceive, betray, 750
Then, as repentant, to submit, beseech,
And reconcilement move with feigned remorse,
Confess, and promise wonders in her change:
Not truly penitent, but chief to try
Her husband, how far urged his patience bears,
His virtue or weakness which way to assail.
Then, with more cautious and instructed skill,
Again transgresses, and again submits;
That wisest and best men, full oft beguiled,
With goodness principled not to reject 760
The penitent, but ever to forgive,
Are drawn to wear out miserable days,
Entangled with a poisonous bosom-snake;
If not by quick destruction soon cut off,
As I by thee, to ages an example.

ὕαινα κοὐκ ἄνθρωπος· οὐδ' ἄλλῳ τρόπῳ 780
ἐσχημάτισται πᾶς γυναικεῖος δόλος,
πίστιν προδουσῶν κεἰς τὸ πᾶν ψευδωμότων.
αἴπερ φενάκισμόν τε καὶ δεινὰς τέχνας
λιτῶν μεταλλάσσουσι καὶ ξυναλλαγῆς
κλαυθμῶν τε πλαστῶν· πρὸς δὲ καὶ, θαυμαστὸν ὥς,
ἤθη παρεγγυῶσι βελτίω πολύ·
τὰ πάντα δ' οὐδὲν, τοῦδ' ἀεὶ πειρωμένων,
ὅσον γ' ἂν ἀνὴρ δυσκόμιστον αἰνέσαι
βίον, τίνων μάλιστ' ἂν ἐμβολαῖς δόλων
καθιππάσαιντ', ἀνδρεῖον εἴτ' ἄρ' ἀσθενῆ. 790
ἔπειτα δ' αὖθις, διάδοχον πανουργίας,
εὐταξίαν παρεῖχον εὐμαθεστέραν.
ὅθεν γ' ἀριστεύοντες ἐν σοφοῖς τινὲς,
σπουδαῖα παιδευθέντες ὥστε μὴ 'κβαλεῖν
καὶ τῶν πονηρῶν ὃς παραιτεῖται δίκην,
πανάθλιον τρίβουσιν ἠπατημένοι
βίον, πλοκαῖσι θανασίμου πεπλεγμένοι
ψυχὴν ἐχίδνης, εἴ γε μὴ τοὐναντίον
διεφθάρησαν ταχύμοροι, τοῖς ἐκγόνοις
μνημεῖον, ὡς ἔγωγε σῶν δόλων ὕπο. 800

DALILA.

Yet hear me, Samson; not that I endeavour
To lessen or extenuate my offence,
But that, on the other side, if it be weighed
By itself, with aggravations not surcharged,
Or else with just allowance counterpoised, 770
I may, if possible, thy pardon find
The easier toward me, or thy hatred less.—
First granting, as I do, it was a weakness
In me, but incident to all our sex,
Curiosity, inquisitive, importune
Of secrets, then with like infirmity
To publish them—both common female faults—
Was it not weakness also to make known,
For importunity, that is for nought,
Wherein consisted all thy strength and safety? 780
To what I did thou shewedst me first the way.
But I to enemies revealed, and should not—
Nor shouldest thou have trusted that to woman's frailty;
Ere I to thee, thou to thyself wast cruel.
Let weakness then with weakness come to parle,
So near related, or the same of kind;
Thine forgive mine; that men may censure thine

ΔΗΛΙΛΗ.

ὅμως δ' ἄκουε τοὺς ἐμοὺς, Σάμψων, λόγους·
οὐκ ἄν τι μειώσαιμ' ἂν ὧν ἔδρων ψόγον·
ἀλλ' εἰ καλῶς ἔξεστι μετρῆσαι τάδε,
μὴ προστεθέντος, παρὰ νόμον ῥέπειν, βάρους,
ἢ καὶ δικαίοις ἀντισηκῶσαι σταθμοῖς,
ἴσως σέθεν τύχοιμ' ἂν εὐμενεστέρου,
ἢ δυσμένειαν τήν γε νῦν παρειμένου.
ἥμαρτον, οὐδὲ τοῦτ' ἀπαρνεῖσθαί με δεῖ,
πάθος γυναικῶν ἴδιον, ἀποκεκρυμμένα
σκαιῶς ἀνιστοροῦσα παρακαίρῳ πόθῳ, 810
καὶ πρὸς, τὰ δ' ἄμφω κοινὰ θηλειῶν κακὰ,
ἄλλοις παραγγέλλουσα· δειλίαν δὲ σὺ
οὐκ ὠφλες, ἀργῶν πραγμάτων ἡσσημένος,
ὅθεν σθένειν ὑπῆρχεν, ἀποδείξας τίδε;
ἔγωγ' ὀπαδὸς σοῦ προηγητῆρος ἤ.
μαθοῦσα δ', ἐχθροῖς, οὐδ' ἐχρῆν, ηὔδων ἐγώ.
σὲ δ' οὐ καλῶς γυναικὶ πιστεῦσαι λέγω,
βλάψαντα σαὐτὸν, ἀδικίᾳ φθάσαντ' ἐμέ.
ἐν τοισίδ' οὖν ξυμβῶμεν, ὡς δ' ὁμόγνιος
σφαλεὶς σφαλεῖσαν ἵλεῳ δέξαι τρόπῳ· 820
ἀνθ' ὧν ἂν ἐν βροτοῖσι συγγνώμης ἴσως

The gentler, if severely thou exact not
More strength from me than in thyself was found.
And what if love, which thou interpretest hate, 790
The jealousy of love, powerful of sway
In human hearts, nor less in mine toward thee,
Caused what I did? I saw thee mutable
Of fancy, feared lest one day thou wouldst leave me
As her at Timna; sought by all means therefore
How to endear, and hold thee to me firmest.
No better way I saw than by importuning
To learn thy secrets, get into my power
Thy key of strength and safety. Thou wilt say,
"Why then revealed?"—I was assured by those 800
Who tempted me, that nothing was designed
Against thee but safe custody and hold.
That made for me; I knew that liberty
Would draw thee forth to perilous enterprises,
While I at home sat full of cares and fears,
Wailing thy absence in my widowed bed;
Here I should still enjoy thee, day and night,
Mine and love's prisoner, not the Philistines',
Whole to myself, unhazarded abroad,
Fearless at home of partners in my love. 810

μᾶλλον τύχοις, μὴ μείζον' ἐκπράξας ἐμὲ
ὧν αὐτὸς εἶχες· σκεπτέον δέ· μή τί μοι,
μισεῖν δοκούσῃ, ζῆλος ἐξ ἔρωτος ἦν
γεγὼς, ὁ καρδίας τε καὶ φρενὸς μέδων,
ὁ ταῦτα δράσας; κουφόνουν μαθοῦσά σε,
δείσασα δ' ὡς ἂν αὖτε χηρώσαντ' ἐμὲ,
ὡς πρὶν σὺ τὴν Τιμνῖτιν, ἔσπευδον τόδε,
ὅπως σε συνδήσαιμι δυσλύτοις πέδαις·
τὸ δ' ἠπόρουν, εἰ μή γε κεκτῄμην ποθὲν 830
τὴν σὴν κρυφαίαν κλῇδα τῆς σωτηρίας.
τί δ' ἦν, ἐφ' ᾧ τόδ' ἐκμαθοῦσ' αὐδὰν ἔτλην;
ἢ μὴν ὑπέσχονθ' οἵ με κλέπτοντες δόλῳ
ὡς μηδὲν ἐννοοῦντες εἴ γε μὴ σέθεν
φρουρᾶς ἀφύκτου δεσμά· πρὸς δ' ἐμοῦ τόδ' ἦν.
σὲ γὰρ σάφ' ἤδη διὰ χερῶν συχνοὺς ἔχειν
ἐλεύθερον μέλλοντα κινδύνους, ἐμὲ
ἐῶντα χήραν ἐν πολυστόνῳ λέχει
ἀνδρός τε φρούδου περιδεᾶ· τὸ δ' ἔμπαλιν
μένοντα, πάννυχόν τε καὶ πανήμερον 840
αὐτὴ καθ' αὑτὴν εἶχον ἂν μόνη μόνον
φιλοῦσα, καὶ θύραθεν ἄψαυστον δύης,
ἔρωτος αἰχμάλωτον, οὐκ ἐχθροῦ τινός.

These reasons in love's law have passed for good,
Though fond and reasonless to some perhaps;
And love hath oft, well meaning, wrought much woe,
Yet always pity or pardon hath obtained.
Be not unlike all others, not austere
As thou art strong, inflexible as steel.
If thou in strength all mortals dost exceed,
In uncompassionate anger do not so.

SAMSON.

How cunningly the sorceress displays
Her own transgressions, to upbraid me mine!— 820
That malice, not repentance, brought thee hither,
By this appears. I gave, thou sayest, the example,
I led the way; bitter reproach, but true;
I to myself was false ere thou to me.
Such pardon therefore as I give my folly,
Take to thy wicked deed; which when thou seest
Impartial, self-severe, inexorable,
Thou wilt renounce thy seeking, and much rather
Confess it feigned. Weakness is thy excuse,

ἔρως μὲν ἔσθ' ὁ τόνδε κυρώσας λόγον,
εἰ καὶ παρ' ἄλλοις ἀλογίαν ὀφλισκάνει.
ἔρως μὲν ἄκων πόλλ' ἀπείργασται κακὰ,
ἀεὶ δ' ἀθῷος ἐν βροτοῖσιν ἐκρίθη.
μή νυν σιδηρόφρων τε κἄκαμπτος μένει,
οἷς τ' ἄρ' οὔτις ἄλλος, ἐν ῥώμης λόγῳ
ἄθελκτος ἴσθι, μήδ', ἀριστεύων σθένος, 850
ὀργῆς ἀπηνοῦς ἆθλον ἐν θνητοῖς λάβῃς.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

αὐτὴν μὲν ἥδ' ἡ φαρμακὶς, πυκνῷ δόλῳ,
ἔμ' ὡς ἀληθῶς κερτομοῦσ', ἐμέμψατο.
κακὸν φρονοῦσα, κοὐ μεταλλαγεῖσα νοῦν,
ἥκεις· τεκμήριον δέ· καὶ γὰρ αὐτὸς ἦ,
πικρὸν τόδ', ἀψευδὲς δὲ, λοιδορεῖς ἐμὲ,
ὁ πρῶτος εἰς ἐμαυτὸν ἀδικίας τύπον
τόσης προδείξας, πρὶν σὲ τολμῆσαί ποτε.
ὅσον μὲν οὖν ἔμοιγε συγγνώμης λαχεῖν
τῆς μωρίας ἔξεστι, σῆς πανουργίας 860
ἔχοις ἄν· ἐξ ἐμοῦ δὲ κατ' ἐμαυτοῦ δίκας
ὀρθὰς ὁρῶσα κἀπαραιτήτους νόμους,
ἃ νῦν ματεύεις, πρόφασιν ὡς θηρωμένη,
τάχ' ἂν μεθείης· τῶν φρενῶν ἀῤῥωστίαν

And I believe it,—weakness to resist 830
Philistian gold. If weakness may excuse,
What murderer, what traitor, parricide,
Incestuous, sacrilegious, but may plead it?
All wickedness is weakness; that plea therefore
With God or man will gain thee no remission.
But love constrained thee;—call it furious rage
To satisfy thy lust; love seeks to have love.
My love how could'st thou hope, who tookest the way
To raise in me inexpiable hate,
Knowing, as needs I must, by thee betrayed? 840
In vain thou striv'st to cover shame with shame,
Or by evasions thy crime uncoverest more.

DALILA.

Since thou determinest weakness for no plea
In man or woman, though to thy own condemning,
Hear what assaults I had, what snares besides,
What sieges girt me round, ere I consented;

σκῆψιν προτείνεις, οὐδ' ἔγωγ' ἀρνήσομαι,
τὸ μὴ σθένειν γε τοῖσι δελεάζουσί σε
χρύσῳ Φιλιστίνοισιν ἀντέχειν τότε·
οἷς εἴ τιν' ἦν φεύγοντα νικῆσαι λόγοις,
τίς δήποθ' ἱερόσυλος ἢ πατροκτόνος,
προδότης τίς, αἰνόλεκτρος ἢ μιαίφονος, 870
ἐπὶ τοισίδ' οὐκ ἄμεμπτος; ἀσθενεῖ γε πᾶς
ὃς ἂν πονηρὸς ᾖ· σὲ δ' οὔποτ' ἂν Θεὸς
ἢ θνητὸς ἀπολύσειε τοιούτων χάριν.
ἀλλ' οὐδ' ἔρωτος τοῦτ' ἔδρας ἠσσημένη,
οἰστρηλατουμένη δὲ λαγνείας μένει.
ἔρωτ' ἔρως γὰρ ἀνταμοιβὸν ἄρνυται,
οὗ γ' οὔτιν' ἐλπίδ' εἶχες, ἡ σαυτῆς κάτα
τείνασα δυσκάθαρτον ἐξ ἐμοῦ στύγος·
πρὸς σοῦ γὰρ ᾔδη δεινὸν ἠπατημένος.
αὐτὴ μὲν ἥλως ἡ θέλουσ' ὑπεκφυγεῖν, 880
αἴσχει ματαίῳ προσβαλοῦσ' αἶσχος πόνῳ.

ΔΗΛΙΛΗ.

ἐπεὶ σύ, καίπερ σαυτὸν αἰτιώμενος,
γυναιξὶν ἀνδράσιν τ' ἀπεννέπεις τάδε,
φαίην ἂν οἵας ἐμβολάς τε καὶ δόλων
τέχνας περιβληθεῖσα, πολιορκουμένων

Which might have awed the best resolved of men,
The constantest, to have yielded without blame.
It was not gold, as to my charge thou layest,
That wrought with me. Thou knowest the magistrates
And princes of my country came in person, 851
Solicited, commanded, threatened, urged,
Adjured by all the bonds of civil duty
And of religion; pressed how just it was,
How honourable, how glorious, to entrap
A common enemy, who had destroyed
Such numbers of our nation; and the priest
Was not behind, but ever at my ear,
Preaching how meritorious with the gods
It would be to ensnare an irreligious 860
Dishonourer of Dagon. What had I
To oppose against such powerful arguments?
Only my love of thee held long debate,
And combated in silence all these reasons
With hard contest. At length that grounded maxim,
So rife and celebrated in the mouths
Of wisest men, that to the public good
Private respects must yield, with grave authority
Took full possession of me and prevailed;
Virtue, as I thought, truth, duty, so enjoining. 870

δίκην, ἀπεῖπον, οἷσιν αὐθάδης μάλα
ἐνέδωκεν ἄν τις, ἀψεγῶς φοβούμενος·
χρύσου γὰρ οὐκ ἦν ἔργον, ὥς με διέβαλες·
τοὺς δ' ἐν τέλει κάτοισθα, πρωτάρχους πόλεως,
αὐτούς μ' ἀπειλαῖς ἐντολαῖς τε καὶ λιταῖς 890
ἐπικαλέσαντας, πρὸς νόμου τε δημίου
τοῦ τ' ἐκ θεῶν σθένοντος, ὡς μάλ' εὐπρεπῶς
πεσοῖτο, καλλίσταισιν ἀγρευτὸς πάγαις,
ὃ τῶν πολιτῶν μυρίους ἀποκτανών.
οὐδ' ὑστερεῖν ἔδοξαν οἱ τοὺς θεοὺς πέρι,
θρυλοῦντες ὡς εὔνοιαν ἔκ γε δαιμόνων
κτήσοιτο πᾶς τις ξυλλαβὼν τὸν δυσσεβῶς
Δάγων' ἀτιμάσαντα· τοιούτοις μὲν οὖν
τίς ἢ λογισμοῖς ἀνταγωνιστὴς ἐγώ;
ἔρως ὑπὲρ σοῦ χρόνιος ἀντιστὰς μόνος 900
στερρὸν σιωπῶν ἆθλον ἀθλεύειν ἔτλη.
τέλος, τὸ περιβόητον ἐκ σοφωτάτων
κηρυχθὲν ἀνδρῶν ῥῆμα καὶ παλαίφατον,
ΚΡΑΤΕΙΝ ΤΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΝ, τῶν φρενῶν ἐδέσποσεν·
αἰδὼς γὰρ ἦν, καὶ πίστις, ὡς δοκεῖν γ' ἐμοί,
ἀρετή τε σεμνότιμος, οἷς ἠπειγόμην.

SAMSON.

I thought where all thy circling wiles would end;
In feigned religion, smooth hypocrisy.
But had thy love, still odiously pretended,
Been, as it ought, sincere, it would have taught thee
Far other reasonings, brought forth other deeds.
I, before all the daughters of my tribe
And of my nation, chose thee from among
My enemies, loved thee, as too well thou knewest,
Too well; unbosomed all my secrets to thee,
Not out of levity, but overpowered 880
By thy request, who could deny thee nothing;
Yet now am judged an enemy. Why then
Didst thou at first receive me for thy husband,
Then, as since then, thy country's foe professed?
Being once a wife, for me thou wast to leave
Parents and country; nor was I their subject,
Nor under their protection but my own,
Thou mine, not theirs. If aught against my life

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἦ κάρτ' ἔλεξας προσδοκῶντί μοι τάδε·
θεῶν γὰρ εὔσχημόν τι καὶ πλαστὸν σέβας
ἔσθ', οὗ γ' ἔκυρσαν σῶν δόλων περιστροφαί.
εἰ δ' ὃν προτείνεις, ὡς ἐχρῆν, ἀκήρατος 910
ἔρως ὑπῆρχε, τῶνδε διαφέροντά σ' ἂν
ἐδίδαξεν ἔργα καὶ λόγοις ἐνουθέτει.
σὲ δὴ πρὸ πασῶν τῆς ἐμῆς πάτρας κορῶν
ἐμφυλίων τε, κἀκ γένους ἐξειλόμην
ἐχθροῦ· πόθου γὰρ, ᾧ κατειχόμην, σέθεν,
ἄγαν κατέγνως τὴν ἄγαν προθυμίαν,
ὥστ' ἐκκαλύψαι τὰν φρεσὶν κειμήλια,
οὐχ ὡς ἀνοίας ἔνοχος, ἀλλ' ἡσσημένος
σοῦ λιπαρούσης, ᾗ τὸ πᾶν ὑπεικτέον.
νῦν ταῦτα δράσας ἐχθρὸς ὢν ἐφηυρέθην. 920
τί δή μ' ἐδέξω νυμφικαῖς εὐναῖς τότε,
ἐχθρόν γε τῆς σῆς νῦν τε καὶ πάλαι πάτρας;
σὲ δ' εἰσάπαξ δάμαρτα, τὴν πόλιν τ' ἔδει
παρ' οὐδὲν, ἀντ' ἐμοῦγε, καὶ γεννήτορας
ἄγειν· ἐκείνων δ' οὐκ ἐμοὶ κλύειν θέμις,
σοῦ γὰρ φύλαξ καὶ τοῦδε τἀνδρὸς αὐτὸς ἦ.
πρὸς ταῦθ' ὅ σ' αἰτῶν οἷσιν ἄν μ' εἴη κτανεῖν

Thy country sought of thee, it sought unjustly,
Against the law of nature, law of nations; 890
No more thy country, but an impious crew
Of men conspiring to uphold their state
By worse than hostile deeds, violating the ends
For which our country is a name so dear;
Not therefore to be obeyed. But zeal moved thee;
To please thy gods thou didst it. Gods unable
To acquit themselves and prosecute their foes
But by ungodly deeds, the contradiction
Of their own deity, gods cannot be;
Less therefore to be pleased, obeyed, or feared. 900
These false pretexts and varnished colours failing,
Bare in thy guilt how foul must thou appear!

DALILA.

In argument with men a woman ever
Goes by the worse, whatever be her cause.

SAMSON.

For want of words no doubt, or lack of breath—
Witness when I was worried with thy peals.

φύσεως ὑπερβέβηκε καὶ βροτῶν νόμους.
οἱ δ' ἐκπεσόντες τῶν πολιτείας ὅρων,
δεινοῖς ἐπ' ἔργοις ξυνομόσαντες ἐκδίκως, 930
οἵ' οὐδ' ἂν ἐξείη ποτ' ἐν μάχῃ δορὸς
ῥυσιπτόλει, κάλλιστα τῆς πάτρας γέρα
φθείρουσ', ἐρασμίαν τ' ἐν ἀνθρώποις χάριν·
μὴ δὴ τοιούτους ἀξιοῦν τιμῆς λαχεῖν.
μῶν σοῖς θεοῖς ἀρεστὰ ταῦτ' ἐσπούδασας;
ἀλλ' οἵ γε μὴ σθένουσι μηδ' αὐτοὶ μένειν,
ἢ πού γε δή τιν' ἐχθρὸν ἀνατρέπειν βίᾳ,
μὴ οὐ δύσθεόν τι δρῶντες, οἷά τ' ἂν θεοῖς
οὔπως ξυνᾴδοι, τούσδε γ' οὐ θεοὺς λέγω,
οὐδ' ἂν τρόπῳ νιν προσκύσαιμ' ἂν εὐσεβεῖ. 940
σκήψει σφαλεῖσ' οὖν χρωμάτων πεπλασμένων,
αἰσχρὰν ἐφάνθης ὑπερέχουσ' ἀλιτρίαν.

ΔΗΛΙΛΗ.

ἢ μὴν ἀνὴρ, δίκαιον εἴτ' ἐκτὸς δίκης,
ἀεὶ γυναικὸς, ἐν λόγων μάχῃ, κρατεῖ.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἐπῶν γὰρ, ἤ ποθ' οὕνεκα σμικρᾶς πνοῆς·
εὖ σοῦ τόδ' ᾔδη καταβοώμενος πάλαι.

DALILA.

I was a fool, too rash, and quite mistaken
In what I thought would have succeeded best.
Let me obtain forgiveness of thee, Samson;
Afford me place to shew what recompense 910
Toward thee I intend for what I have misdone,
Misguided; only what remains past cure
Bear not too sensibly, nor still insist
To afflict thyself in vain. Though sight be lost,
Life yet hath many solaces, enjoyed
Where other senses want not their delights,
At home, in leisure and domestic ease,
Exempt from many a care and chance, to which
Eye-sight exposes daily men abroad.
I to the lords will intercede, not doubting 920
Their favourable ear, that I may fetch thee
From forth this loathsome prison-house, to abide
With me, where my redoubled love and care,
With nursing diligence, to me glad office,
May ever tend about thee to old age,
With all things grateful cheered, and so supplied,
That, what by me thou hast lost, thou least shalt miss.

ΔΗΛΙΛΗ.

φεῦ τῆς ἀνσίας τῆς τ' ἄγαν εὐθαρσίας.
ἔπταισ' ἐν οἷσι καὶ μάλιστ' ἐλπὶς παρῆν.
εἴη δ' ἄρ', εἴη σῆς με συγγνώμης τυχεῖν·
κάρτ' ἀντίποινα, καιρὸν ἣν λάβω, κακῶν 950
φέροιμ' ἄν ἄλλων παρενόμουν ἡγουμένων·
σὲ δ' οὖν προσήκει τοὺς ἄγαν κλαυθμοὺς ἐᾶν,
στέργοντα τἄχθος τῆς δυσιάτου δύης.
πόλλ' ἐστὶ καίπερ ὄμματ' ἐστερημένῳ
θελκτήρι', οἷς γ' αἴσθησις ἐν λοιποῖς πάρα,
οἴκοι σχολάζουσίν τε φροντίδων τ' ἄτερ
αἳ τοὺς βλέποντας τοῖς καθ' ἡμέραν πόνοις
τρίβουσιν ἐκδημοῦντας· ἀσμένην μὲν οὖν
τοὺς τῇδ' ἄνακτας ἐμὲ παραιτεῖσθαι χρεὼν,
τῶν δ' οὐκ ἀθέλκτων τεύξομαι, σὲ τοῦδ' ὅπως 960
ἔσται μ' ὑπεκσώσασαν ἐργαστηρίου
τοῦ δυσφορήτου, ξύννομον τηρεῖν ἐμοί.
τἀνθένδε, τῆς πρὶν ἔξοχον προθυμίας
ζῆλον παρασχοίμην ἂν εὐφιλὴς τροφὸς,
σὲ μηδὲ γηράσκοντα θυμηδοῦς χαρᾶς
δεῖσθαι, τὰ φροῦδα δ' ὡς μάλιστά γ' ἀναλαβεῖ
ἐμοῦ πορούσης, ἐξ ἐμοῦ βεβλαμμένον.

SAMSON.

No, no, of my condition take no care;
It fits not; thou and I long since are twain.
Nor think me so unwary or accursed, 930
To bring my feet again into the snare
Where once I have been caught: I know thy trains,
Though dearly to my cost; thy gins, and toils,
Thy fair enchanted cup, and warbling charms,
No more on me have power, their force is nulled;
So much of adder's wisdom I have learned,
To fence my ear against thy sorceries.
If in my flower of youth and strength, when all men
Loved, honoured, feared me, thou alone couldst hate me,
Thy husband, slight me, sell me, and forego me, 940
How wouldst thou use me now, blind, and thereby
Deceivable, in most things as a child
Helpless, thence easily contemned and scorned,
And last neglected! How wouldst thou insult,
When I must live uxorious to thy will
In perfect thraldom! How again betray me,
Bearing my words and doings to the lords,
To gloss upon, and, censuring, frown or smile!
This jail I count the house of liberty

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

μὴ τῆς τύχης σοὶ τῆς ἐμῆς μελησάτω.
πάλαι διχοστατοῦσιν οὐ πρέπει τόδε.
οἰκεῖά μοι, πολλοῦ γὰρ ἀντ' ἐπριάμην 970
τὴν γνῶσιν, οἷα δικτύων ἀγρεύματα,
οἵους ποτῆρας, οἷον ὡς Σειρὴν μέλος
ἐμηχανήσω· ταῦτα δ' ἣν εἶχέν ποτε
δύναμιν ἀπώλεσ', ὡς δὲ κωφίας, καλὰ
σὰ πρὸς μαγεύματ' ὦτ' ἐφραξάμην σοφῶς.
εἰ δῆτ' ἔτ' ἀκμάζοντα πρωθήβῳ σθένει,
πάντων πόθῳ φόβῳ τε τιμαλφούμενον,
μόνη πολιτῶν τόνδε τὸν σαυτῆς πόσιν
στυγεῖν ἀπορρῖψαί τε καὶ πωλεῖν ἔτλης,
πῶς ἄν με τυφλωθέντα χειρώσαιο νῦν, 980
δόλοισι ληπτὸν, κἀπόρου βρέφους τρόπον
γελωτοποιὸν καὶ παρημελημένον;
ποίοισιν ἄν με σκώμμασίν τε καὶ τέχναις
τὸν πάγχυ δοῦλον, τὸν δάμαρτος ἥσσονα,
βάλοις, ὅσ' ἢ δράσαιμι, τοῖς ἐπιστάταις,
ἢ καὶ φράσας τύχοιμι, καταπροδοῦσ' ἀεὶ,
γέλωτ' ἐγείρασ', ἢ ξυνωφρυωμένων
χόλον; τὰ δεσμὰ τούς γε σοὺς δόμους πάρα

To thine, whose doors my feet shall never enter. 950

DALILA.

Let me approach at least, to touch thy hand.

SAMSON.

Not for thy life, lest fierce remembrance wake
My sudden rage to tear thee joint by joint.
At distance I forgive thee, go with that;
Bewail thy falsehood, and the pious works
It hath brought forth to make thee memorable,
Among illustrious women, faithful wives.
Cherish thy hastened widowhood with the gold
Of matrimonial treason;—so farewell.

DALILA.

I see thou art implacable, more deaf 960
To prayers than winds and seas; yet winds to seas
Are reconciled at length, and sea to shore:
Thy anger, unappeasable, still rages,
Eternal tempest never to be calmed.
Why do I humble thus myself, and, suing
For peace, reap nothing but repulse and hate,

ἐλεύθερ' ἐστὶν, οὐδ' ἀμείψαιμ' ἄν ποτε.

ΔΗΛΙΛΗ.

ἆρ' οὖν προσέλθω, τῆς τε σῆς χειρὸς θίγω; 990

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

μὴ δή· κελεύω πρός σε τῆς ζωῆς τόδε·
μὴ τῶν παλαιῶν οὕνεκ' ἀμπλακημάτων
αἶψ' ἐξεγερθῶ, σὸν σπαραχθῆναι δέμας
μεληδὸν αὔτως· σοὶ τάδ' αἰνέσαι χρεών·
πρόσω μενούσῃ γ' οὐκ ἂν ἐγκαλοῖμ' ἔτι·
κλαίειν σε δεῖ ψεύσασαν, ὧν τ' ἔδρας τότε
κάρτ' εὐσεβήσασ', ὥστε καὶ κλειναῖς ἔνι
γυναιξὶ ταῖς πρὶν καὶ φιλάνδροισιν πρέπειν.
χαίρουσ' ἂν, ᾧ 'λαβες γε τῇ μισθαρνίᾳ,
αὐτὴ ταχύνασ' εὖνιν εὐφράναις βίον. 1000

ΔΗΛΙΛΗ.

ὁρῶ σ' ἀμείλιχόν τε κἀπροσήγορον
λιταῖσιν, οἷά τ' οὐδὲ πρὸς πόντου σάλον
τὰ πνεύμαθ', οἷσιν, ὡς παροίχεται χρόνος,
εἶσ', ὡς πρὸς ἀκτὴν εἰσ' ἁλὸς, ξυναλλαγαί·
σοὶ δυσπροσοίστῳ μαίνεται θυμὸς βίᾳ,
χειμῶνος ὡς ἄπαυστον αἰανοῦς μένος.
ἦ γὰρ ματαίας ἱκεσίας ἀντεσχόμην·

Bid go with evil omen, and the brand
Of infamy upon my name denounced?
To mix with thy concernments I desist
Henceforth, nor too much disapprove my own. 970
Fame, if not double-faced, is double-mouthed,
And with contrary blast proclaims most deeds;
On both his wings, one black, the other white,
Bears greatest names in his wild aery flight.
My name perhaps among the circumcised,
In Dan, in Judah, and the bordering tribes,
To all posterity may stand defamed,
With malediction mentioned, and the blot
Of falsehood most unconjugal traduced.
But in my country, where I most desire, 980
In Ecron, Gaza, Asdod, and in Gath,
I shall be named among the famousest
Of women, sung at solemn festivals,
Living and dead recorded, who, to save
Her country from a fierce destroyer, chose
Above the faith of wedlock-bands, my tomb

ὕβριν λαχοῦσαν καὶ στύγος μ' ἀπήλασας,
φάτιν δύσορνιν δυσκλεᾶ τ' ἐστιγμένην.
ἀφετέον οὖν σε τήν τε σὴν τύχην ἐμοὶ, 1010
καὶ δὴ περισσὸν ὧν δέδρακ' αὐτὴ ψόγον.
διχόστομος γὰρ, εἴ γε μὴ διχῶς βλέπει,
τὰ πλεῖστ' ἐθώυξ' ἀντιπνοῖς κηρύγμασι
φήμη, πτεροῖς δισσοῖσιν αἰωρουμένη·
τὸ τῇδε λευκὴ, θἄτερον μελάγχιμος,
καὶ τῶν μεγίστων ὀνόματ' ἐκφέρει δίχα·
ὡς εἰκάσαι με, τοῖσι περιτετμημένοις
τοῖς τῇδε, κεἴ τις τῶν Ἰουδαίων ὅροις
ἔστ' ἀγχιτέρμων, ἡ τάλαινα Δηλίλη
ἀπευκτὸς ἔσται κἀξάγιστος εἰσαεὶ, 1020
χὡς τοὺς γάμους προδοῦσα διαβεβλημένη.
ἐν δ' οἷσιν ἔσται ταῦτά μοι μάλ' ἀσμένῃ,
τοῖς ἀμφὶ Γάζην, ἔν τ' Ἐκρωναίων πέδῳ,
κατ' Ἄστοδον Γάθην τε, τιμία γυνὴ
σεμνῶς ἑορτάζουσιν ὑμνηθήσομαι,
καὶ ζῶσα καὶ θανοῦσα μὴ λήθης τυχεῖν,
ὡς ἀντ' ἔρωτος καὶ γαμηλίου λέχους
πόλιν, σέθεν πορθοῦντος ἀγρίᾳ χερὶ,
σώσασα, τυμβόχωστον εὔοδμον γάνος

With odours visited and annual flowers;
Not less renowned than in mount Ephraim
Jael, who with inhospitable guile
Smote Sisera sleeping, through the temples nailed. 990
Nor shall I count it heinous to enjoy
The public marks of honour and reward
Conferred upon me, for the piety
Which to my country I was judged to have shewn.
At this whoever envies or repines,
I leave him to his lot, and like my own.

CHORUS.

She is gone,—a manifest serpent by her sting,
Discovered in the end, till now concealed.

SAMSON.

So let her go. God sent her to debase me,
And aggravate my folly, who committed 1000
To such a viper his most sacred trust
Of secrecy, my safety and my life.

CHORUS.

Yet beauty, though injurious, hath strange power,
After offence returning, to regain
Love once possessed, nor can be easily
Repulsed, without much inward passion felt,

ἀνθέων ἐτησίοισι καρποῦσθαι φοραῖς. 1030
οὐ γάρ τι μᾶλλον Ἡφραημιτῶν χοροὶ
κλῄζουσ' Ἰάλην, τὴν πάλαι κακόξενον
ἥλοις διανταίοισιν ὑπνῶσσον κάρα
τῷ Σισέρᾳ τρήσασαν, ἀθεμίστῳ δόλῳ·
οὐδ' αἴσχρ' ἔμοιγε τἀκ πόλεως ἡγήσομαι,
ἀλλ' ἀντίμισθα τῶν πεπραγμένων γέρα,
ὡς θεοσεβής τε καὶ πάτρας εὐεργέτις.
τῆς ἧς τύχης ὄναιθ', ὃς ἂν τούτων φθονοῖ,
ὡς αἰνεσάσης, οἷς συνεζεύχθην, ἐμοῦ. 1039

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

αὐτόδηλος ὡς δράκαινα, τῶν μάλ' εὖ κεκρυμμένων
ἐς τὰ νῦν κέντρων ἕκατι, φροῦδος ἐκ δόμων γυνή.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

οὐδ' ἐμοῦγ' ἄκοντός ἐστιν, ὅντιν' αἰκίᾳ τόσῃ
κάρτα μῶρον ὄντ' ἐλέγξων, τήνδ' ἐπίηλεν Θεός,
τὴν ἔχιδναν, ᾗ τὸ κρυπτόν μοι παρηγγυημένον
ῥύσιον γέρας παρῆκα, τὸν ἐμὸν ἐκρίψας βίον.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἀλλ' ὅμως δεινὸν σθένουσαν ἴσμεν εὔμορφον χάριν,
δυσμενῆ τλᾶσαν κατελθεῖν, τόν τ' ἔρωτα τὸν πάλαι
ἀναφέρειν, τὸ δ' οὔτις ἀνδρῶν ῥᾳδίως ἂν ἐκβάλοι·

And secret sting of amorous remorse.

SAMSON.

Love-quarrels oft in pleasing concord end,
Not wedlock-treachery endangering life.

CHORUS.

It is not virtue, wisdom, valour, wit, 1010
Strength, comeliness of shape, or amplest merit,
That woman's love can win or long inherit;
But what it is, hard is to say,
Harder to hit,
(Which way soever men refer it)
Much like thy riddle, Samson, in one day
Or seven, though one should musing sit.
If any of these, or all, the Timnian bride
Had not so soon preferred
Thy paranymph, worthless to thee compared, 1020
Successor in thy bed,
Nor both so loosely disallied
Their nuptials, nor this last so treacherously

καὶ λαθὼν, κέντρον ξύνοιδε δηξίθυμον ἱμέρου. 1049

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ζυγομαχήσασιν θαμίζουσ' ἐν φίλοις ξυναλλαγαί·
ἕτερόν ἐστιν ἡ προδοῦσα, κἀν γάμοις ἀνδροφθόρος.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἀρετὴν οὔ φημ' οὐδέ τιν' ἀλκὴν,
οὐδ' εὐτραπέλου δῶρον γλώσσης,
οὐδ' εὐειδὲς σῶμα μεγασθενὲς,
οὐδ' ὁπόσον κλέος, ἢτορ δαμάσαι
τὸ γυναικεῖον· τί δ' ἂν εἴη τοῦτ'
εὔστοχος ἄν τις μόγις ἐξεύροι
πάντοσ' ἐρευνῶν, εἴτε πανήμερον
εἴθ' ἐφθήμερον, ὡς οἱ τὸ πάλαι
καλχαίνοντες 1060
τὰ σὰ δεῖν' αἰνίγματα, Σάμψων.
τούτων γ' ἕνεκ' οὐκ εὐμαρὲς οὕτω
τὴν νυὸν οὐκ ἦν τὴν ἀπὸ Τίμνας
σοῦ προελέσθαι τὸν πολὺ χείρω
λέκτρων μετέχειν, τὸν παρανύμφιον·
οὐδ' αὖ γαμικῶν ῥεῖ' ἐλύθησαν
θεσμοὶ σπονδῶν, οὐδ' αὖ Δηλιλη
αἱμύλ' ἔδρασεν, μοιρόκραντον

Had shorn the fatal harvest of thy head.
Is it for that such outward ornament
Was lavished on their sex, that inward gifts
Were left for haste unfinished, judgment scant,
Capacity not raised to apprehend
Or value what is best
In choice, but oftest to affect the wrong? 1030
Or was too much of self-love mixed,
Of constancy no root infixed,
That either they love nothing, or not long?
  Whate'er it be, to wisest men and best,
Seeming at first all heavenly under virgin veil,
Soft, modest, meek, demure,
Once joined, the contrary she proves, a thorn
Intestine, far within defensive arms
A cleaving mischief, in his way to virtue
Adverse and turbulent; or by her charms 1040
Draws him awry enslaved
With dotage, and his sense depraved
To folly and shameful deeds, which ruin ends.

τῆς σῆς κεφαλῆς κείρασα θέρος.
μῶν ὅτι μορφῆς δῶρον ἔχουσιν, 1070
χάριν ὡραίαν ἀμέγαρτον,
τά γε τῆς ψυχῆς φρόνιμ' ἐλλείπουσ'
ἀτέλεστ' ἄλλως,
τό γε βέλτιστον μὴ διακρίνειν;
νοῦς σφιν ἄωρος καὶ σμικρολόγος,
τῶν τε κακίστων
τά γε πόλλ' εἴωθεν ἔχεσθαι·
ἢ τὰ πρὸς αὐτῶν σπεύδουσι λίαν,
μηδὲ φιλοῦσαι φιλίαν τηροῦσ',
ἀργὰς φρένας ἀῤῥίζωτοι; 1080
ὅττι ποτ' ἦν, εἰ καὶ σοφίαν τις ἀριστεύεσκε,
δόξας δῖαν ἰδεῖν καὶ παρθενικαῖς ὀθόναισιν
αἰδῶ θ' ἐσσαμένην καὶ κεδνὸν σχῆμα κατηφὲς,
γήμας εὗρε νέαν, σίνος ἔμφυτον, οὔ ποτε φυκτὸν
ὅπλων φυλακαῖς, κέντρον ἐς ἀεί·
τῶν γὰρ καλῶν
ἱεμένου θορύβῳ
κωλύει, δοῦλόν τε δολοῤῥαφίᾳ παρακόπτει
αἰσχρουργεῖν δι' ἀτασθαλίας· τὰ δ' ἔκυρσεν ὀλέθρου.

What pilot so expert but needs must wreck,
Embarked with such a steers-mate at the helm?
  Favoured of Heaven, who finds
One virtuous, rarely found,
That in domestic good combines.
Happy that house! his way to peace is smooth.
But virtue which breaks through all opposition, 1050
And all temptation can remove,
Most shines, and most is acceptable above.
  Therefore God's universal law
Gave to the man despotic power
Over his female in due awe,
Nor from that right to part an hour,
Smile she or lour;
So shall he least confusion draw
On his whole life, not swayed
By female usurpation, or dismayed. 1060

τοιούτου γε τυχὼν οἰακονόμου, ξυνετός περ, 1090
τίς ποτε ναύκληρος φύγε μὴ καταποντισθῆναι;
εὐδαίμων, ὃς κίχε,
καὶ σπανίᾳ τύχᾳ,
εὔζυγον ἑστιοῦ-
-χον ἄλοχον ἀπειρόκακον,
εὐεστώ τ' ἄπονον·
ἀρετὰ δ' ἀντίβιόν θ' ὁρμὰν
καταπαλαίουσα, καὶ
παρατροπὰς σφάλλου-
-σα, θεοῖς κάλλιστα προσᾴδει. 1100
πρὸς τάδ' ὁ πᾶσιν ἀνάσσων
δυσαπάλλακτον διαπαντὸς
θῆκε, τὸν ἄρσενα
τᾶς θηλείας ἐν παντὶ τρόπῳ
παντοκράτορ' εἶναι·
εἴτ' εὔκολον εἴτε σύνοφρυν,
δεῖ νιν ὑποπτήσσουσαν κατέχειν·
δρῶν τόδ', ἀμώμητος
διατελέσει ζῶν,
οὐδὲ γυναικοκρα- 1110
-τούμενος ἐκδίκως
ἐν φοβερᾷ φρενί.

But had we best retire? I see a storm.

SAMSON.

Fair days have oft contracted wind and rain.

CHORUS.

But this another kind of tempest brings.

SAMSON.

Be less abstruse, my riddling days are past.

CHORUS.

Look now for no enchanting voice, nor fear
The bait of honied words; a rougher tongue
Draws hitherward; I know him by his stride,
The giant Harapha of Gath, his look
Haughty, as is his pile high-built and proud.
Comes he in peace? what wind hath blown him hither
I less conjecture, than when first I saw 1071
The sumptuous Dalila floating this way.
His habit carries peace, his brow defiance.

SAMSON.

Or peace or not, alike to me he comes.

CHORUS.

His fraught we soon shall know, he now arrives.

ἐκποδὼν ἴωμεν ἤδη χεῖμα γὰρ προσέρχεται.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

συχνὰ χεῖμα, συχνά τ' ὄμβρος, εὐδίων ἐξ ἡμερῶν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

καινὸν εἶδός ἐστ' ἀέλλης, οὐδὲ τῶν εἰθισμένων.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

λεκτέον σαφέστερ'· οὐκέτ' ἔστι χρησμῳδεῖν ἐμοί.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τοίγαρ εὔλαλόν τε γῆρυν καὶ μελιφθόγγων λόγων
φίλτρα νῦν μὴ προσδέχου σύ· τραχύφωνος ἐκ Γάθης
Ἡράφας, ὁ μακροβάμων καὶ γιγαντεῖος, πάρα,
ὑψίκομπος ὡς ἰδεῖν νιν, καὶ τὸ σῶμ' ὑπέρμεγας. 1120
ἆρά νυν ἡμῖν προσηνὴς καὶ κατ' οὖρον ἔρχεται;
τοῦδε μεῖον ἢ νεωστὶ Δηλίλης στοχάζομαι,
ὅτε τρυφῇ πλέουσα πολλῇ δεῦρ' ἐκαλλωπίζετο·
τῇ στολῇ σπονδὰς φέροντος, ὄμματ' ἐς μάχην καλεῖ.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

τῶνδ' ἔμοιγ' οὐ φροντίς.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἥκει, σημανῶν ἃ βούλεται.

HARAPHA.

I come not, Samson, to condole thy chance,
As these perhaps, yet wish it had not been,
Though for no friendly intent. I am of Gath,
Men call me Harapha, of stock renowned
As Og, or Anak, and the Emims old 1080
That Kiriathaim held; thou knowest me now,
If thou at all art known. Much I have heard
Of thy prodigious might and feats performed,
Incredible to me, in this displeased,
That I was never present on the place
Of those encounters, where we might have tried
Each other's force, in camp or listed field;
And now am come to see of whom such noise
Hath walked about, and each limb to survey,
If thy appearance answer loud report. 1090

SAMSON.

The way to know were not to see but taste.

HARAPHA.

Dost thou a'ready single me? I thought
Gyves and the mill had tamed thee. Oh, that fortune
Had brought me to the field, where thou art famed
To have wrought such wonders with an ass's jaw!

ΗΡΑΦΑΣ.

οὐ ξυνδακρύσων τῶν κακῶν ἕκατί σοι,
Σάμψων, πάρειμι, τοῖσιν ἐνθάδ' ἐξ ἴσου·
ἄκοντι δή μοι, καίπερ οὐ φίλῳ, τάδε·
ὁ γὰρ Γαθίτης ἐν βροτοῖσιν Ἡράφας
κλύω, γένος μὲν οἷος εἴτ' Ὤγης ποτὲ 1130
εἴτ' Ἠνάκης, εἴτ' Ἥμιμαι παλαίχθονες
οἱ περὶ Κίραιθον ὅστις εἰμ' οὐκ ἀγνοεῖς,
μὴ οὐκ αὐτὸς ἐν θνητοῖσιν ἀγνοούμενος.
ἃ μὲν σθένεις τε καὶ δέδρακας ἔξοχα
ἄπιστα πόλλ' ἤκουσα, τοῦτο δυσφορῶν,
τὸ μήποτ' αὐτὸς παρατυχεῖν, ὥστ' εἰδέναι
κλειστοῖς ἀγῶσιν, ὁπότερος κρείσσων μάχῃ.
ἥκω δ' ἀναθρήσων σε τὸν περίκλυτον
μελεϊστὶ, λαμπρόφωνον ἀνελέγξαι βοήν.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

τὸ δ' οὐκ ἰδών τις ἔμαθεν, ὃς δ' ἐγεύσατο. 1140

ΗΡΑΦΑΣ.

οὐκ οὖν μυλῶνος, οὐδὲ πρὸς δεσμῶν δαμεὶς
προκαλεῖ με τούτοις· ἦ μάλ' ὤφελεν Τύχη
ἐκεῖσέ μ' ἀγαγεῖν, οὗ σὲ τῇ σιαγόν
ὡπλισμένον κλῄζουσι δεῖν' εἰργασμένον.

I should have forced thee soon wish other arms,
Or left thy carcass where the ass lay thrown.
So had the glory of prowess been recovered
To Palestine, won by a Philistine,
From the unforeskinned race, of whom thou bearest
The highest name for valiant acts; that honour, 1101
Certain to have won by mortal duel from thee,
I lose, prevented by thy eyes put out.

SAMSON.

Boast not of what thou wouldst have done, but do
What then thou wouldst; thou seest it in thy hand.

HARAPHA.

To combat with a blind man I disdain,
And thou hast need much washing to be touched.

SAMSON.

Such usage as your honourable lords
Afford me, assassinated and betrayed;
Who durst not with their whole united powers 1110
In fight withstand me single and unarmed,
Nor in the house with chamber-ambushes
Close-banded durst attack me, no, not sleeping;
Till they had hired a woman with their gold,
Breaking her marriage faith, to circumvent me.

ἄλλων ἂν ὠρέξω γάρ, εἴ γε μὴ ᾽πεσες
ὄνῳ ξυνέκβλητός τε καὶ πατούμενος·
πάλιν δ᾽ ἂν ἠρίστευσεν ἡ Φιλιστία
ὑπ᾽ ἐμοῦ πολίτου, τῶν τε περιτετμημένων
προεῖχεν, ὧν κύδιστος ἐν κλόνοισι σύ.
τόδ᾽, οὔ γ᾽ ἂν οὔπως μονομαχῶν ἥμαρτον ἂν,
ἀπεστέρησάς μ᾽ ὀμμάτων τητώμενος. 1151

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

μὴ δὴ τὰ μὴ δεδραμέν᾽ ἐκφήνῃς λόγῳ
ματαιόκομπος· δεῖ δέ σ᾽, ὡς ἕτοιμα, δρᾶν.

ἩΡΑΦΑΣ.

οὐκ ἔστ᾽ ἀγών μοι πρὸς τὸν ὀμματοστερῆ·
λουτροῦ δ᾽ ἀθίκτων οὐδ᾽ ἂν ἁψαίμην ἐγώ.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

τούτων δ᾽ ἔμ᾽ ἠξίωσαν οἱ σοὶ δεσπόται,
οἱ τίμιοι δή, τὸν παρηπατημένον,
οἱ καὶ ξυναθροισθέντες οὐκ ἔτλησαν ἂν
γυμνῷ μόνῳ τ᾽ ἔμοιγ᾽ ἀπαντῆσαί ποτε,
ἀλλ᾽ οὐδ᾽ ἐφεδρεύοντες ὑπνώσσοντί μοι 1160
θαλάμων μυχοῖσι προσβαλεῖν πυκνῷ λόχῳ,
πρὶν δὴ γύναιόν μ᾽ ἀργυρώνητον, γάμους
ψεύσασαν, ἐκτήσαντο παρακροῦσαι δόλῳ.

Therefore, without feigned shifts, let be assigned
Some narrow place enclosed, where sight may give thee,
Or rather flight, no great advantage on me;
Then put on all thy gorgeous arms, thy helmet
And brigandine of brass, thy broad habergeon, 1120
Vant-brass and greaves, and gauntlet, add thy spear,
A weaver's beam, and seven-times-folded shield;
I only with an oaken staff will meet thee,
And raise such outcries on thy clattered iron,
Which long shall not withhold me from thy head,
That in a little time, while breath remains thee,
Thou oft shalt wish thyself at Gath, to boast
Again in safety what thou wouldst have done
To Samson, but shalt never see Gath more.

HARAPHA.

Thou durst not thus disparage glorious arms, 1130
Which greatest heroes have in battle worn,
Their ornament and safety, had not spells
And black enchantments, some magician's art,
Armed thee or charmed thee strong, which thou from heaven
Feignedst at thy birth was given thee in thy hair,
Where strength can least abide, though all thy hairs

πρὸς ταῦτ', ἔασον εὐπρεπῶν σκῆψιν λόγων·
ἕρκος τις ἡμῖν στενόπορον χωριζέτω,
ὅπου βλέπων, μᾶλλον δ' ὅπου φεύγειν ἔχων
ἥκιστα κερδάναις ἄν· εἶτα φαίδιμον
πήληκα καὶ θώρηκα καὶ χαλκήλατον
χιτῶνα κνημῖδάς τε καὶ βραχιόνων
πρόβλημα χειρῖδάς τε καὶ πελώριον 1170
ἔγχος τὸ θ' ἑπτάβοιον εὔπηκτον σάκος
λάβοις ἄν· αὐτὸς δρύϊνον ἀντισχὼν ξύλον
πατάγῳ σιδηροῦν σαὶ διαῤῥήξω λόφον,
κρατὸς μάταιον ἔρυμα, καὶ Γάθης πόθον,
ὅσον γ' ἂν ἐξῇ διατελεῖν πνέοντά σε,
καὶ σφόδρ' ἐνήσω· τοῦτο δ' οὐκ ἔσται ποτὲ,
ἃ δρᾶν ἔμελλες ἐν Γάθῃ σε γαυριᾶν.

ΗΡΑΦΑΣ.

οὐκ ἂν σὺ τήνδε τὴν ἀγακλειτὴν στολὴν,
τὴν καὶ φερίστους ἀσφαλεῖ παντευχίᾳ
συχνὸν κεκοσμηκυῖαν, ὑβρίζειν ἔτλης, 1180
εἰ μή σ' ἐπῳδαῖς καὶ κακοῖς μαγεύμασι
γόης ἐθώρηξ'· ὡς δὲ σοῦ μαθεῖν πάρα,
γέρας τόδ' ἔσχες γενόμενος θεόσδοτον,
κόμαις ἐνοικοῦν, αἷς σθένους μέτεστι δὴ

Were bristles ranged like those that ridge the back
Of chafed wild boars, or ruffled porcupines.

SAMSON.

I know no spells, use no forbidden arts;
My trust is in the living God, who gave me 1140
At my nativity this strength, diffused
No less through all my sinews, joints, and bones,
Than thine, while I preserved these locks unshorn,
The pledge of my unviolated vow.
For proof hereof, if Dagon be thy God,
Go to his temple, invocate his aid
With solemnest devotion, spread before him
How highly it concerns his glory now
To frustrate and dissolve these magic spells,
Which I to be the power of Israel's God 1150
Avow, and challenge Dagon to the test,
Offering to combat thee his champion bold,
With the utmost of his godhead seconded:
Then thou shalt see, or rather to thy sorrow

ἥκιστα πάντων, οὐδ' ἂν εἰ τριχῶν στίχας
ἔχοις οἵανπερ δειράδ', ὡς ἂν ἐμμανὴς
ὕστριξ τις, ἢ καὶ κάπρος ἠγριωμένος.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

οὔ μοι μαγεύματ', οὔ τις ἄῤῥητος τέχνη·
ἐγὼ τὸν ἀείζωον αἰδοῦμαι Θεὸν,
ὃς ξύμφυτόν μοι ᾔδωκε τὸ σθένος τόδε, 1190
οὐδ' ἧσσον, ἢ τὸ σὸν, δι' ὀστέων ῥαφὰς
ἄρθρων τε νεῦρα διαχυθὲν, ταύτην ἕως
ἔσωσ' ἔθειραν, ὧνπερ ὅρκον ὤμοσα
πίστιν βεβαίαν· σοὶ μὲν οὖν πορευτέον
πρὸς τὸν Δάγωνος, εἴ γέ σοι Δάγων θεὸς,
ὅπως ἐλέγξεις τοῦτο, σεμναῖσιν λιταῖς
ἀρωγὸν ἐπικαλῶν σφε, κἀκτείνας μακρὰν
ὡς κάρτα δεῖ νιν ὃν κλέος τηρεῖν ταυῦν,
λύοντ' ἐπῳδὰς τάσδε κἀπωθούμενον.
αἱ δ' οὐκ ἐπῳδαὶ, τοῦ δὲ πατρῴου Θεοῦ 1200
τοὔργον· τὸ καὶ Δάγωνος ἀντειπόντος ἂν
δείξαιμι, τόν τ' ἀντίπαλον, ὃν προείλετο,
σὲ, θεὸν ἔχοντα παντελῆ παραστάτην,
ἴσοις ἀγῶσιν ἀνταμιλλᾶσθαι καλῶ.
ἰδεῖν γὰρ, ἢ κλαίων ἂν αἰσθέσθαι γ' ἔχοις,

Soon feel, whose God is strongest, thine or mine.

HARAPHA.

Presume not on thy God. Whate'er he be
Thee he regards not, owns not, hath cut off
Quite from his people, and delivered up
Into thy enemies' hand; permitted them
To put out both thine eyes, and fettered send thee
Into the common prison, there to grind 1161
Among the slaves and asses, thy comrades,
As good for nothing else, no better service,
With those thy boisterous locks; no worthy match
For valour to assail, nor by the sword
Of noble warrior, so to stain his honour,
But by the barber's razor best subdued.

SAMSON.

All these indignities, for such they are
From thine, these evils I deserve and more,
Acknowledge them from God inflicted on me 1170
Justly, yet despair not of his final pardon,
Whose ear is ever open, and his eye
Gracious to re-admit the suppliant;

τὸν ἐμόν τε τὸν σόν θ', ὁπότερος κρείσσων, θεός.

ἩΡΑΦΑΣ.

οὐ σοῦ Θεοῦ γ' ἕκατι σοὶ θαρσεῖν ἔδει,
ὃς σοῦ παρημέληκεν, ὧν τ' ὥραν νέμει
ἐνόσφισ', ἀρνεῖταί τε μὴ γνῶναι πάνυ,
κἄδωκεν αἰχμάλωτον ὀφθαλμωρύχοις, 1210
ξὺν τοῖς τυχοῦσι δέσμιον, νωμᾶν μύλην,
δούλων ὄνων θ' ἑταῖρον, ὡς τούτῳ μόνῳ
τὰ νῦν ἀραρότ'· οὐδὲ βοστρύχοις ποτὲ
βέλτιον ἂν χρήσαιο τοῖς ὑπερκόποις·
οὐδ' ἂν τοιοῦδ' ἀγῶνος ἀνθάπτοιτό που,
ἀνάξιον γὰρ, ἀνδρὸς ἀλκίμου δόρυ,
τὴν εὐγένειαν ὕβρισαι· ξυροῦ δ' ἀκμῇ
νίκης τις ἂν τύχοι ποτ' εὐπρεπεστέρας.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

εὖ μὲν ξύνοιδα τοῖσδε, καὶ τούτων ἔτι
αἰσχίοσιν, δίκαιον ὑβρισθεὶς νόμον 1220
τῶν σῶν ὑπ' ἀστῶν, τῷ Θεῷ διακόνων·
πάρεστι δ' ἐλπὶς, ἐν δίκης καταστροφαῖς,
κλύων τε γὰρ βλέπων τε δέξασθαι φιλεῖ
τῶν προστροπαίων τὰς παλισσύτους λιτὰς,
μὴ δυσπροσοίστου κἀμὲ τεύξεσθαι Θεοῦ.

In confidence whereof I once again
Defy thee to the trial of mortal fight,
By combat to decide whose God is God,
Thine, or whom I with Israel's sons adore.

HARAPHA.

Fair honour that thou dost thy God, in trusting
He will accept thee to defend his cause,
A murderer, a revolter, and a robber. 1180

SAMSON.

Tongue-doughty giant, how dost thou prove me these?

HARAPHA.

Is not thy nation subject to our lords?
Their magistrates confessed it, when they took thee
As a league-breaker, and delivered bound
Into our hands: for hadst thou not committed
Notorious murder on those thirty men
At Ascalon, who never did thee harm,
Then like a robber strippedst them of their robes?
The Philistines, when thou hadst broke the league,
Went up with armed powers thee only seeking, 1190
To others did no violence nor spoil.

ᾧ δὴ πεποιθὼς, δευτέροις κηρύγμασιν
αὐτὸν κελεύω σ', ὁπότερός γ' ἔσται θεὸς,
εἴτ' οὖν σὸς, εἴτ' ἐμῆς ὃς αἰσυμνᾷ χθονὸς,
στερῥᾶς ἐλέγχειν ἐσχάτῃ κρίσει μάχης.

ΗΡΑΦΑΣ.

ἦ κάρτα τιμῆς τὸν σὸν ἀξιοῖς Θεὸν, 1230
σέ νιν δοκῶν ἂν πρόμαχον αἰνέσαι ποτὲ,
λῃστήν τε παράνομόν τε καὶ μιαιφόνον.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

πῶς δὴ, θρασύστομ', ὡς τὸ σῶμ' ὑπερφυής;

ΗΡΑΦΑΣ.

ὑμῶν ἀνάσσουσ' οἵ γε τῇδε κοίρανοι·
τούτῳ δὲ συμφωνοῦσιν οἱ 'ν ὑμῖν πάλαι
ἄρχοντες, οἱ, δήσαντες, ὥστε σοῦ κρατεῖν
ἡμῖν παρέδοσάν σ', ὃς παρὰ σπονδῶν νόμους
ἄνδρας τριάκοντ' Ἀσκαλωνίτας, σέθεν γ'
ἀζημίους, πάντη δὲ δημόθρουν τόδε,
ἔκτεινας, ὡς δὲ φῶρ ἐσύλησας στολήν. 1240
σὲ δ' αὖ μετῆλθον οἱ Φιλιστῖνοι μόνον,
ὅπλ' ἐπιφέροντες, τὸν παρεκβεβηκότα·
αὐτοὶ δὲ λείας ὕβρεώς τ' ἀναίτιοι.

SAMSON.

Among the daughters of the Philistines
I chose a wife, which argued me no foe;
And in your city held my nuptial feast.
But your ill-meaning politician lords,
Under pretence of bridal friends and guests,
Appointed to await me thirty spies,
Who, threatening cruel death, constrained the bride
To wring from me, and tell to them, my secret,
That solved the riddle which I had proposed. 1200
When I perceived all set on enmity.
As on my enemies, wherever chanced,
I used hostility, and took their spoil,
To pay my underminers in their coin.
My nation was subjected to your lords—
It was the force of conquest; force with force
Is well ejected when the conquered can.
But I, a private person, whom my country
As a league-breaker gave up bound, presumed
Single rebellion, and did hostile acts— 1210
I was no private, but a person raised,
With strength sufficient, and command from Heaven,
To free my country; if their servile minds

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἐχθρὸς μὲν οὐκ ἦ, τῶν Φιλιστίνων χθονὶ
δάμαρθ' ἑλόμενος, κἀν γάμοις ἑορτάσας·
ὑμῶν δ' ἄνακτες κακοφρονοῦντες αἱμύλοι
ἔμοιγ' ἐνέδρας ἃς λέγεις ἐσκεύασαν·
οὗτοι δ' ἀπειλαῖς ἐβιάσαντο τὴν νυὸν
ὥς σφε κτανεῖν ἔμελλον, ἐκμαθεῖν ἐμοῦ
κρυπτὸν σόφισμα καὶ λύσεις αἰνιγμάτων· 1250
αὐτοῖσι δ', ἐκμαθοῦσα, διέδωκεν τόδε·
ἔχθραν δ' ἰδών μοι πάντα μηχανώμενον,
αὐτὸς τὸν ἀεὶ παρατυχόνθ' ἡγούμενος
ἐχθρὸν, τὰ κείνων σκῦλ' ἀφειλόμην ἐγώ,
ἰσόσταθμ' ἕλκων, τούς τε δρῶντας ἀντιδρῶν.
βίᾳ δὲ τἀμὰ τοῖσι σοῖσιν ὑπετάγη·
θέμις τὸν ἥσσω τοῦ κρατήσαντος κρατεῖν,
καιροῦ τυχόντα· τοῖσδε δ' εἴ τις ἀντερεῖ,
ὁθούνεκ' ἰδιώτην με καὶ σπονδῶν παρὲξ
καὶ χωρὶς ἄλλων εἰς στάσιν πεπτωκότα 1260
δεσμοῖς πολῖται, πολέμιόν τε, παρέδοσαν—
ἀλλ' οὐ τοιοῦτός εἰμι, θεόδοτος δ' ἀνὴρ
σθένων τε θεῖον, τὴν πάτραν ἐλευθεροῦν·
κεἰ δούλιον τὸ λῆμα, μηδ' ἐσταλμένον

Me their deliverer sent would not receive,
But to their masters gave me up for nought,
The unworthier they; whence to this day they serve.
I was to do my part from Heaven assigned,
And had performed it, if my known offence
Had not disabled me, not all your force.
These shifts refuted, answer thy appellant, 1220
Though by his blindness maimed for high attempts,
Who now defies thee thrice to single fight,
As a petty enterprise of small enforce.

HARAPHA.

With thee, a man condemned, a slave enrolled,
Due by the law to capital punishment?
To fight with thee no man of arms will deign.

SAMSON.

Cam'st thou for this, vain boaster, to survey me,
To descant on my strength, and give thy verdict?
Come nearer, part not hence so slight informed,
But take good heed my hand survey not thee. 1230

HARAPHA.

O Baal-zebub! can my ears unused

ῥυτῆρ' ἐδέξαντ', ἀντιδόντες οὐδενὸς
τοῖς δεσποταῖσιν, αἰτίους μᾶλλόν τις ἂν
ὀρθῶς, τὸ θ' ἑξῆς κεἰς τὰ νῦν δούλους λέγοι.
ἔδει με κραίνειν τἀκ Θεοῦ προστάγματα,
οὐδ' ἄν τι τῶνδ' ἥμαρτον· οὐδ' ἐχθρῶν βίᾳ
ἔπταισα δ' ὧδ' αὐτουργός· ἐν προὔπτῳ τόδε. 1270
ταῖσδ' οὖν ἐλεγχθεὶς μὴ παρεξελθεῖν τέχναις,
τούτῳ φράσαι' ἂν πῶς ἂν ἀντείποις ἔτι,
τυφλῷ τε, μήτ' ἔχοντι γενναῖόν τινα
ἀγῶνα τολμᾶν, ἀλλ' ὅμως τρίταις βοαῖς
προκαλουμένῳ σ' ἐς μονομάχων δῆριν χερῶν·
φλαῦρ' ἐστὶ ταῦτα, καὶ μάλ' εὐτελῆ ποιεῖν.

ΗΡΑΦΑΣ.

σὲ ζημιωθένθ' ὥστε καὶ δοῦλον θανεῖν
οὐκ ἔσθ' ὁπλίτης ὃς μάχης ἂν ἀξιοῖ.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ὡς οὖν θεωρήσων με, καὶ μακρῷ λόγῳ
ὁποῖός εἰμι ψηφιῶν, ὑψήγορος 1280
ἦλθες; πελάζειν δεῖ σε, καὶ σκεθρῶς σκοπεῖν.
ὅρα δὲ μή σε διὰ χερῶν αὐτὸς σκοπῶ.

ΗΡΑΦΑΣ.

φεῦ τοῦ πατρῴου τῆσδε τῆς χώρας θεοῦ.

Hear these dishonours, and not render death?

SAMSON.

No man withholds thee, nothing from thy hand
Fear I incurable. Bring up thy van;
My heels are fettered, but my fist is free.

HARAPHA.

This insolence other kind of answer fits.

SAMSON.

Go, baffled coward! lest I run upon thee,
Though in these chains, bulk without spirit vast,
And with one buffet lay thy structure low,
Or swing thee in the air, then dash thee down, 1240
To the hazard of thy brains and shattered sides.

HARAPHA.

By Astaroth, ere long thou shalt lament
These braveries, in irons loaden on thee.

CHORUS.

His giantship is gone somewhat crest-fallen,
Stalking with less unconscionable strides,
And lower looks, but in a sultry chafe.

SAMSON.

I dread him not, nor all his giant brood,

πῶς ὧδ' ὀνειδίσαντά μ' οὐκ εἰωθότα
οὐκ ἂν δίκαιον ἀντιτισαίμην μίρον;

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἀλλ' οὔ τίς ἐσθ' ὃς δρᾶν σ' ἀπεννέπει τόδε.
οὐδ' ἂν ἄγῃς κράτιστά μ' ἐκφοβεῖν ἔχει,
πόδας δεθέντα, τὼ δὲ χεῖρ' ἐλεύθερον.

ΗΡΑΦΑΣ.

ἔργοισι τοιάδ', οὐ λόγοισι, δεκτέον.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἔρρ' οὖν ἄπρακτος, ὄγκος ἄψυχος μέγας, 1290
δείλαιε, μή σε καὶ πέδαισι δέσμιος
ἅπαξ πατάξας ἐπιδραμὼν χαμαὶ βάλω,
ἢ καὶ στροβούμενόν τε καὶ μετάρσιον
πλευραῖσι καταράξας σε συνθραύσω κάρα.

ΗΡΑΦΑΣ.

κλαίοις ἂν, εἰ κλύουσί μου θεοὶ, τάδ' οἷς
ἐμπερπερεύει, δυσλύτοις χαλκεύμασι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἰδεῖν ταπεινὸς, μείοσίν θ' ὁρμαῖς ποδῶν,
δεινὸν χολωθεὶς, ἑπτάπηχυς, οἴχεται.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ὁ δ' οὐκ ἔμοιγ', οὐδ' ἡ γιγαντεία σπορὰ

Though fame divulged him father of five sons
All of gigantic size, Goliah chief.

CHORUS.

He will directly to the lords, I fear, 1250
And with malicious counsel stir them up
Some way or other yet further to afflict thee.

SAMSON.

He must allege some cause, and offered fight
Will not dare mention, lest a question rise
Whether he durst accept the offer or not;
And that he durst not plain enough appeared.
Much more affliction than already felt
They cannot well impose, nor I sustain;
If they intend advantage of my labours,
The work of many hands, which earns my keeping,
With no small profit daily to my owners. 1261
But, come what will, my deadliest foe will prove
My speediest friend, by death to rid me hence;
The worst that he can give, to me the best.
Yet so it may fall out, because their end
Is hate, not help to me, it may with mine
Draw their own ruin who attempt the deed.

δεινὴ πέφυκε, καίπερ ἕκτος αὐτὸς ὤν, 1300
ὡς δὴ φατίζουσ', ἐν δὲ πρωτεύων Γόλας.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

δέδοικα μὴ πρὸς κοιράνους φθάσῃ μολὼν,
σὲ δὴ παραινέσων νιν αἱμύλῳ λόγῳ
ποίῳ τρόπῳ δράσουσι καὶ πλείω κακά.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

δεὸν δέ νιν σκῆψίν τιν' ἐξευρεῖν, μάχην
οὐκ ἄν τι σημήνειε τὴν προκειμένην,
ὡς τοῖς ἀνιστοροῦσι μὴ φράζειν ἔχων
πῶς ἐκβέβηκε, δῆλος ὢν ὑπεκφυγών.
μόλις δ' ἂν αὐτοὶ τῶν γε νῦν πλείω πάθη
ἐπεισφέροιεν, οὐδ' ἄρ' ἂν τλαίην ἐγώ, 1310
μέλλων γε ταῦτα διατελεῖν πονούμενος
τά γ' ἀντὶ πολλῶν ἐργατῶν χειρουργίας
τιμώμεν', ὥστε τῆς καθ' ἡμέραν τροφῆς
τοὺς δεσπότας μου πλέον ἀπαύρασθαι πολύ.
ἐγὼ δ', ἐκείνῳ ξυντυχὼν ὃς ἂν διδῷ
θάνατον τάχιστα, φίλτατον προσδέξομαι·
ἄριστά μοι τἄχθιστα· συμβαίη δέ τῳ
τάχ' ἂν, κατ' ἄλλων μηχανωμένῳ δύας,
αὐτὸν τυχεῖν ποθ' ὧν ἔπρασσ' αὐτὸς κακῶν.

CHORUS.

Oh how comely it is, and how reviving
To the spirits of just men long oppressed,
When God into the hands of their deliverer 1270
Puts invincible might,
To quell the mighty of the earth, the oppressor,
The brute and boisterous force of violent men,
Hardy and industrious to support
Tyrannic power, but raging to pursue
The righteous, and all such as honour truth!
He all their ammunition
And feats of war defeats,
With plain heroic magnitude of mind
And celestial vigour armed, 1280
Their armouries and magazines contemns,
Renders them useless; while
With winged expedition,
Swift as the lightning glance, he executes

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

κάλλιστα, πιεζομέ-
-νοις χρονισθείσῃ βίᾳ
οὐκ ἀδίκοισιν, πρόμαχον ἔ-
-δωκεν Θεὸς ἀστυφέλικτον,
ψυχὰς παραθέλγων,
τὸν ὑπερφίαλον κρατύνοντ'
ἀνδρῶν κατέχειν, τρόπον
θηρός του θορύβῳ μανέντα
ἀψευδῶν κάτα καὶ δικαιων,
τὰ τυραννίδος ἔκνομα
αὐξάνειν σπεύδοντ' ἄγαν.
τοῖος ἀρωγὸς πολεμικῶν
σκευῶν τ' ἔργων θ' ὑπερέσχεν·
μεγαλόψυχος γὰρ
θυμόν τ' ἀφελὴς ἄθ' ἥρως,
ἵν' ἀθάνατον σθένων,
θήκας ὁπλοφόρους παρ' οὐδὲν
ἀχρείους ἔθετ'· ἐν δὲ τούτῳ
οἷον φλογῶπες ἀστραπαὶ,
ὠκυπτέροις βουλεύμασι

His errand on the wicked, who surprised
Lose their defence, distracted and amazed.
But patience is more oft the exercise
Of Saints, the trial of their fortitude,
Making them each his own deliverer,
And victor over all 1290
That tyranny or fortune can inflict.
Either of these is in thy lot,
Samson, with might endued
Above the sons of men; but sight bereaved
May chance to number thee with those
Whom patience finally must crown.
This idol's day hath been to thee no day of rest,
Labouring thy mind
More than the working day thy hands.
And yet perhaps more trouble is behind; 1300
For I descry this way
Some other tending: in his hand
A sceptre or quaint staff he bears,

τοὺς ἀμπλακόντας 1340
ἀδημονοῦντας ἀνεκφεύκτους
τὸ τεταγμένον οἷ θεήλατον δρᾷ.
θαμὰ δὲ βάσανος ὅσιον ἑλοῦσ'
ἄνδρα τινα, δοκιμάσασα τὸ
ταλασίφρον νιν, τὸ λυπεῖσθαι λέγω,
σωτῆρ' αὐτὸν ἑαυτῷ παρέχει
τύχας ἄπ' ἢ τυράννων·
σοὶ τῇδ' ἂν ἦν καὶ θατέρᾳ,
ὑπὲρ βροτοὺς ἐῤῥωμένῳ,
Σάμψων· σὺ δ' ὄσσων 1350
βλάβαις λάχοις ἐνὶ τούτοις ἂν
οἷσι στέφανος τὸ καρτερῆσαι.
φρενὶ δὲ πολύπονον ἁμέραν
πολύθυτον ἔλαχες, ὡς τόσον
χερσὶν οὐπώποτ' ἤντληκας μόγον·
ἔτι δ' ἐκ τούτων, ὡς μὲν ἔοικεν,
κάκ' ἂν γένοιτο μείζω.
καὶ γάρ τιν' ἄλλον δεῦρο πορευόμενον
λεύσσω, ποδῶν λαιψηροδρόμοις μελέταις
σπερχθέντ' ἰδεῖν, καὶ 1360
σκῆπτρόν τι νωμῶντα δαίδαλον.

Comes on amain, speed in his look.
By his habit I discern him now
A public officer, and now at hand.
His message will be short and voluble.

OFFICER.

Hebrews, the prisoner Samson here I seek.

CHORUS.

His manacles remark him, there he sits.

OFFICER.

Samson, to thee our lords thus bid me say: 1310
This day to Dagon is a solemn feast,
With sacrifices, triumph, pomp, and games:
Thy strength they know surpassing human rate,
And now some public proof thereof require
To honour this great feast, and great assembly.
Rise therefore with all speed, and come along,
Where I will see thee heartened and fresh clad,
To appear as fits before the illustrious lords.

SAMSON.

Thou knowest I am a Hebrew, therefore tell them,
Our law forbids at their religious rites 1320
My presence; for that cause I cannot come.

ὅστις ποτ' ἐστὶ, σχῆμ' ἐσιδὼν ἔμαθον,
ὡς γὰρ παρόντος αὐδῶ.
τῶν ἐν τέλει μοι φαίνεται, καὶ σύντομος
ῥήματα καὶ ταχύφωνος ἔσται.

ΚΗΡΥΞ.

ἥκω τὸν αἰχμάλωτον, Ἕβραιοι, μέτα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἐκεῖ σφὲ θάσσοντ' ἔστι δεσμώτην τ' ἰδεῖν.

ΚΗΡΥΞ.

ἄνακτες ἀγγέλλουσί σοι, Σάμψων, τάδε·
Δάγωνι μὲν θύουσι τῇδ' ἐν ἡμέρᾳ,
ἀγῶσι δ' εὐπόμπῳ τε καυχῶνται χαρᾷ· 1370
καὶ δὴ μαθόντες σ' οὐ κατ' ἀνθρώπου μέτρον
σθένοντα, φανερὸν τοῦδε τάσσουσιν τέκμαρ,
ἄγαλμ' ἑορτῇ, τῇ τε νῦν πανηγύρει.
ἄγ' οὖν, ἐγερθεὶς ἄοκνος, ὥς σ' ἂν εὐσταλῆ
φαιδρόν τε δείξω τοῖσι κοιράνοις, ἔπου.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

Ἑβραῖός εἰμι, τοῦτο γὰρ σάφ' οἶσθα σύ·
πρὸς ταῦτα μηδ' ἔχειν με πατρῴῳ νόμῳ
ἱεροῖς παρεῖναι τῶν σε πεμψάντων, φράσον.

OFFICER.

This answer, be assured, will not content them.

SAMSON.

Have they not sword-players, and every sort
Of gymnic artists, wrestlers, riders, runners,
Jugglers and dancers, antics, mummers, mimics,
But they must pick me out, with shackles tired,
And over-laboured at their public mill,
To make them sport with blind activity?
Do they not seek occasion of new quarrels
On my refusal to distress me more, 1330
Or make a game of my calamities?
Return the way thou cam'st, I will not come.

OFFICER.

Regard thyself; this will offend them highly.

SAMSON.

Myself? my conscience and internal peace.
Can they think me so broken, so debased
With corporal servitude, that my mind ever
Will condescend to such absurd commands?
Although their drudge, to be their fool or jester,

ΚΗΡΥΞ.

ἀλλ' ἴσθι μὴ μέλλοντας αἰνέσειν τάδε.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

οὔκουν ὑπάρχουσ' οἱ ξιφῶν εὖ τ' εἰδότες, 1380
κωμῳδολοιχοῦντές τε καὶ πάλης ἴδρεις,
δρομεῖς ξὺν ὀρχησταῖσιν, ἱπποβάμονες,
γυμναστικοὶ μῖμοί τε, παντοῖον γένος;
τί δεῖ νιν ἐν μυλῶνι δεσμίοις τ' ἐμὲ
πόνοις ἀπειπόντ' ἐκκριθέντα δεικνύναι,
ἄθλοις γελωτοποιὸν ὧδ' ἀνόμματον;
ζητοῦσ' ἀφορμὰς τοῦ πάλιν διχοστατεῖν,
ἐμ' οἷα μὴ κλίοντα πημαίνειν πλέον,
κακοῖς ἐφυβρίζοντες· ἀλλ' ἄπελθε σύ,
ᾗ καὶ προσῆλθες· οὐκ ἐμοὶ πορευτέον. 1390

ΚΗΡΥΞ.

σαυτοῦ προκήδου· κάρθ' ὑβριστικὸν τόδε.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἐμοῦγ'· ἐπεὶ ξύνοιδα τἄλυπον φρονῶν.
ἆρ' οὐχὶ πάντως ταῖσι τῶν μελῶν δύαις
κατεαγόθ' ἡγοῦνταί με κἀπεφθαρμένον,
τοίων ἐφετμῶν ἀτοπίᾳ μ' ὑπεικαθεῖν;
αἰσχρόν με, πρὸς τῷ δουλίων πόνων κυρεῖν,

And, in my midst of sorrow and heart-grief,
To shew them feats, and play before their god, 1340
The worst of all indignities, yet on me
Joined with extreme contempt? I will not come.

OFFICER.

My message was imposed on me with speed,
Brooks no delay. Is this thy resolution?

SAMSON.

So take it with what speed thy message needs.

OFFICER.

I am sorry what this stoutness will produce.

SAMSON.

Perhaps thou shalt have cause to sorrow indeed.

CHORUS.

Consider, Samson; matters now are strained
Up to the highth, whether to hold or break.
He's gone, and who knows how he may report 1350
Thy words by adding fuel to the flame?
Expect another message more imperious,
More lordly thundering than thou well wilt bear.

SAMSON.

Shall I abuse this consecrated gift

σκώπτοντα καὶ βωμόλοχον ὡς ἀθύρμασι
παίζειν ἔναντα τοῦδε τοῦ τούτων θεοῦ,
καὶ ταῦτ' ἄπαυστον καρδίας τρέφοντ' ἄχος.
λίαν με καταφρονοῦσιν· οὐ πορεύσομαι. 1400

ΚΗΡΥΞ.

οὔ με σχολάζειν οἱ 'πιτρέψαντες τάδε
ἔταξαν· ἆρ' οὖν σοὶ δεδογμένον λέγεις;

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

δεδογμένον· τάχυνε δ', εἰ τάχους σε δεῖ.

ΚΗΡΥΞ.

ἄκοντί μοί γ', ἃ τοῦδ' ἂν ἐκβαίη θράσους.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἄκοντί γ' ἔσται, παρὰ τὸ προσδοκώμενον.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

μέμνησο, Σάμψων, ὡς ἐπ' ἔσχατον τάδε,
εἴτ' οὖν φυλάξων εἴτε μή, τείνας ἔχεις.
τίς οἶδ', ἀπελθὼν ὅδε σ' ἀπαγγελεῖ τίνα
λόγον φράσαντα, προστιθεὶς ὕλην φλογί;
ἄλλην ἄφυκτον, ὡς ἀφ' ὑψηλοφρόνων, 1410
βαρύκτυπόν τε προσδέχου τιν' ἐντολήν.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

μή μοι γένοιτο, τῶν κομῶν ὁμόστολον

Of strength, again returning with my hair,
After my great transgression? so requite
Favour renewed, and add a greater sin
By prostituting holy things to idols,
A Nazarite, in place abominable,
Vaunting my strength in honour to their Dagon? 1360
Besides how vile, contemptible, ridiculous,
What act more execrably unclean, profane?

CHORUS.

Yet with this strength thou serv'st the Philistines,
Idolatrous, uncircumcised, unclean.

SAMSON.

Not in their idol-worship, but by labour
Honest and lawful to deserve my food
Of those who have me in their civil power.

CHORUS.

Where the heart joins not, outward acts defile not.

SAMSON.

Where outward force constrains, the sentence holds.
But who constrains me to the temple of Dagon, 1370
Not dragging? the Philistian lords command—
Commands are no constraints. If I obey them,

γέρας τόδ' ἱερὸν ἀναλαβόντα τοῦ κράτους,
ὃ σφόδρ' ἁμαρτὼν ὤλεσ', ἡμπολημένον
ῥῖψαι, χάριν τίσαντα πλείοσιν βλαβαῖς,
τιμῶντα τούτους, ὡς θεοὺς, τοὺς οὐδένας.
οὐ δὴ πρέπει με γαυριᾶν, σθένοντά περ,
Δάγωνι Ναζωραῖον, ἐν στυγνῷ τόπῳ.
οὐδ' ἔσθ' ὅπως δράσαιμ' ἂν αἰσχίω τινα
τὸν Θεὸν, ἄτιμος καὶ κατάπτυστος βροτοῖς. 1420

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τοιοῦτος ὢν, σὺ τοῖς Φιλιστίνοις λάτρις,
ἀθέοις ἀπεριτμήτοις τε καὶ δυσωνύμοις.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

τὸ δ' οὐχὶ θρησκείας ποτ', ἀλλ' ἵν' ἐννόμου
ἔχοιμ' ἐδωδὴν ἀντὶ χειρωναξίας
τοῖς ὡς μετοίκου δεσπόταις κρατοῦσί μου.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τὸ λῆμ' ἀθῷος, οὐδὲ δρῶν ἁμαρτάνεις.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ὀρθῶς, ἀνάγκαις περιπεσὼν ἄλλων βίᾳ.
ἰέναι δὲ τόνδ' εἰς ναὸν οὔτιν' ἔστ' ἰδεῖν
ὅστις μ' ἂν, ἕλκειν μὴ οὐ θέλων, ἀναγκάσαι.
ἐπεὶ κελεύματ' ἐστὶν, οὐ βία, τάδε, 1430

I do it freely, venturing to displease
God for the fear of man, and man prefer;
Set God behind; which, in his jealousy,
Shall never, unrepented, find forgiveness.
Yet that he may dispense with me, or thee,
Present in temples at idolatrous rites,
For some important cause, thou need'st not doubt.

CHORUS.

How thou wilt here come off surmounts my reach. 1380

SAMSON.

Be of good courage; I begin to feel
Some rousing motions in me, which dispose
To something extraordinary my thoughts.
I with this messenger will go along,
Nothing to do, be sure, that may dishonour
Our law, or stain my vow of Nazarite.
If there be aught of presage in the mind,
This day will be remarkable in my life
By some great act, or of my days the last.

CHORUS.

In time thou hast resolved; the man returns. 1390

OFFICER.

Samson, this second message from our lords

ταγοῖς ἂν εἴην τοῖς Φιλιστίνοις ἑκὼν
ὑπήκοος, βροτούς τε τοῦ Θεοῦ προθεὶς,
βροτῶν φόβῳ, Θεῷ τε μισητὸς γεγώς·
ὃν κάρτ' ἂν ἐκπράξαντα μὴ λυθὲν χρέος
ἐγῷδα, καίπερ εὖ πεπεισμένος τινὶ
ἱεροῖς πάροντι τοῖς βεβήλοισιν Θεὸν
ξυγγνώμον' εἶναι, καιρίου τινὸς χάριν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

πῶς δὴ φυγὴν εὕροις ἂν, οὐκ ἔχω φράσαι.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

θάρσει· νέον γὰρ ἐννοῶν ξύνοιδά τι
καὶ δεινὸν, ἔργων φροίμι' οὐκ εἰωθότων. 1440
ὀπαδὸς εἶμι τῷδε τῷ κακαγγέλῳ,
οὐδὲν ποιήσων τοῖς νόμοις ἐναντίον,
σαφὲς τόδ', οὐδ' ἄρ' οἶσιν ὤμοσ' ἀπρεπές·
εἰ δ' ὀρθόμαντιν ἐν φρεσὶν γνώμην τρέφω,
κλέος περισσὸν σήμερον κιχήσομαι
λαμπρόν τι δράσας, εἰ δὲ μὴ, μόρου τέλος.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

καιρὸν δέδοκται· τόνδ' ὁρῶ παλίσσυτον.

ΚΗΡΥΞ.

Σάμψων, ἄνακτες δεύτερ' ἀγγέλλουσί σοι·

To thee I am bid say. Art thou our slave,
Our captive, at the public mill our drudge,
And darest thou at our sending and command
Dispute thy coming? Come without delay;
Or we shall find such engines to assail
And hamper thee, as thou shalt come of force,
Though thou wert firmlier fastened than a rock.

SAMSON.

I could be well content to try their art,
Which to no few of them would prove pernicious. 1400
Yet, knowing their advantages too many,
Because they shall not trail me through their streets
Like a wild-beast, I am content to go.
Masters' commands come with a power resistless
To such as owe them absolute subjection;
And for a life who will not change his purpose?
So mutable are all the ways of men.—
Yet this be sure, in nothing to comply
Scandalous or forbidden in our law.

OFFICER.

I praise thy resolution. Doff these links. 1410

ἆρ' οὐχὶ δοῦλος, οὐχὶ δοριάλωτος εἶ,
μυλῶνα καὶ δημόσιον ἐκτρίβων κόπον; 1450
πῶς οὐ προσῆλθες, τὸν πρὶν αἰδεσθεὶς λόγον;
ἀλλ' ἴσθι, μή γ' ἐλθόντος ἐν τάχει σέθεν,
ἡμᾶς τοιῶνδε μηχανῶν τεχνάσματα
καὶ δέσμ' ἂν ἐξευρόντας, ὥστε καὶ βίᾳ
ἄγειν σε, καίπερ ὡς πέτραν πεπηγότα.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἐμοὶ μὲν ἀγὼν ἀσμένῳ, σάφ' εἰδότι
πολλοῖς ὀδύρματ' ἐσόμεν', οἷ' ἐκβήσεται.
ἀλλ', οὐ γὰρ ἑλκηθμοῖσιν ἀγρίου τρόπον
θηρός σφε δεῖ με περιάγειν πόλιν κάτα,
τύχης ῥοπῇ κρατοῦντας, οὐκ ἀρνήσομαι· 1460
ἡμᾶς ἀμήχανον γάρ ἐστιν ἀντέχειν
τοῖς δεσπόταισι τοὺς τὸ πᾶν ὑπηκόους.
πολλαὶ μέν εἰσιν ἐν βροτοῖς περιστροφαί·
χαίρων δὲ πᾶς τις, χὢν βεβούλευται ποιεῖν
τὸ ζῆν ἂν ἀντηλλάξατ'· ἐν δὲ τῷ κλύειν
τῶν σῶν, ἐπίστω μηδὲν ἐνδώσοντά με,
μήτ' αἰσχρά, μήτ' ἐναντί' Ἑβραίων νόμοις.

ΚΗΡΥΞ.

τὼ δέσμ', ἄτ' ὀρθόβουλος, ἐκδύου τάδε·

By this compliance thou wilt win the lords
To favour, and perhaps to set thee free.

SAMSON.

Brethren, farewell. Your company along
I will not wish, lest it perhaps offend them
To see me girt with friends; and how the sight
Of me, as of a common enemy,
So dreaded once, may now exasperate them,
I know not. Lords are lordliest in their wine;
And the well-feasted priest then soonest fired
With zeal, if aught religion seem concerned: 1420
No less the people, on their holy-days,
Impetuous, insolent, unquenchable.
Happen what may, of me expect to hear
Nothing dishonourable, impure, unworthy
Our God, our law, my nation, or myself;
The last of me or no I cannot warrant.

CHORUS.

Go, and the Holy One
Of Israel be thy guide,

σὺ ταῦτα ταῖς ἀρχαῖσιν, εὐνοίας τυχεῖν,
ῥέξαις ἂν, ἢ καὶ τῶνδε τῶν πεδῶν λύσιν. 1470

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ὑμεῖς μὲν ἤδη χαίρετ'· οὔ τι τῆς ὁδοῦ
ἐμοῦ γ' ἑκόντος ξυμμετάσχοιτ' ἂν, φίλοι·
ἐχθροῖς ἀηδὴς ἥδε μοι παρουσία·
ἴσως δ' ἂν, εἰσορῶντες ὃν κοινὸν πάλαι
ἐχθρόν σφιν ἡγήσαντ', ἀκραχόλῳ μένει
ζέσειαν· εὖ γὰρ οἰνοπλῆγας ἔστι τῳ
γνῶναι τυράννους ὡς τυραννικώτατοι·
ὡς καὶ θυτῆρες οἱ κορεσθέντες βορᾶς
μάλιστα δὴ σπεύδουσιν ὧν θεαῖς μέλει·
χὠ δῆμος, ἔργων τῶν καθ' ἡμέραν λυθεὶς, 1480
ἀχάλινος ἄσβεστός τε κἀσελγὴς ἄγαν.
ὁποῖ ἂν οὖν τύχῃ ποτ', οὐκ ἀκούσομαι
οὐδέν τι δράσας οὔτ' ἀεικὲς οὐδαμῶς,
οὔτ' αὖ Θεοῦ τε τοῦ τε πατρῴου νόμου,
ἀλλ' οὐδ' ἐμαυτοῦ ταῦ γένους τ', ἀνάξιον·
ἄδηλος, εἴτε τἄσχατ', εἴτε μὴ, λαχών.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τήνδε κέλευθον σοὶ 'ξερχομένῳ,
Δαίμων Πάτριος ἡγεμονεύοι,

To what may serve his glory best, and spread his name
Great among the Heathen round; 1430
Send thee the Angel of thy birth, to stand
Fast by thy side, who from thy father's field
Rode up in flames, after his message told
Of thy conception, and be now a shield
Of fire; that Spirit, that first rushed on thee
In the camp of Dan,
Be efficacious in thee now at need.
For never was from Heaven imparted
Measure of strength so great to mortal seed,
As in thy wondrous actions hath been seen. 1440

But wherefore comes old Manoah in such haste
With youthful steps? much livelier than ere while
He seems; supposing here to find his son,
Or of him bringing to us some glad news?

MANOAH.

Peace with you, brethren. My inducement hither
Was not at present here to find my son,
By order of the lords new parted hence

τὰ μάλιστ' αὐτοῦ κῦδος ἀέξειν
τοῖσι παροίκοις ἀμφιβόητον. 1490
καὶ μὴν ἄγγελος ὅς σε γενέθλιος
ἀμφιβέβηκεν, παρὰ νῦν σταίη,
σάκος ἀμφιβαλὼν φλογοειδὲς,
σὴν ὃς γένεσιν πάλαι ἀγγείλας
σῆς πατρίας ἀπὸ γῆς ἐπανῆλθεν,
τέρας ἀμφαίνων πυριφεγγές.
καίριον ἔλθοι τό ποθ' ὁπλοφόρῳ
πνεῦμά σοι ἔμφυτον· ὡς οὐπώποτε
θνητῶν ὁπόσοι θεοποίητον
ῥώμην ἔπρεπον, ἠρίστευσαν 1500
θαύμασιν ἔργων
οἷά σε δράσαντ' ἐσορῶμεν.

ἀλλὰ πῶς; Μάνως γεραιὸς ἔρχεται σπουδῇ ποδῶν,
παρὰ δὲ τὸν χρόνον γε τὸν πρὶν κοῦρος ὡς ἀγάλλεται·
υἱὸν, ὡς ἐπεικάσαι γέ μ', ἐνθάδ' ἐλπίζων κιχεῖν,
εἴτ' ἄρ' οὖν εὐάγγελος μάλ' ἤσπερ εἴληχεν τύχης.

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

εὐδαιμονοίητ', ὦ φίλοι· τὸν υἱὸν οὐχ
ἥκω ματεύων, ὃς κελευσάντων ἔβη
τῶν κοιράνων, ὡς παιγνίαν αὐτοῖς πόροι

To come and play before them at their feast.
I heard all as I came, the city rings,
And numbers thither flock; I had no will, 1450
Lest I should see him forced to things unseemly.
But that which moved my coming now was chiefly
To give ye part with me what hope I have
With good success to work his liberty.

CHORUS.

That hope would much rejoice us to partake
With thee. Say, reverend Sire; we thirst to hear.

MANOAH.

I have attempted one by one the lords,
Either at home, or through the high-street passing,
With supplication prone and father's tears,
To accept of ransom for my son their prisoner. 1460
Some much averse I found, and wondrous harsh,
Contemptuous, proud, set on revenge and spite;
That part most reverenced Dagon and his priests:
Others more moderate seeming, but their aim

ἐν ταῖς ἑορταῖς· πάντα δ' ἦν ἐμοὶ μαθεῖν 1510
ἕρποντι, τὴν πρέπουσαν ἐν πόλει βοὴν,
ὄχλων τ' ἀθροίσματ'· οὐδ' ἐγὼ ξυνεσπόμην,
μή πού νιν εἰσίδοιμι τῶν ἐχθρῶν βίᾳ
ἀσχημονοῦντα· τοῦτο δ' ἐννοούμενος,
πῶς ἄν νιν, ἐλπίδος γε τῆσδε μὴ σφαλεὶς,
ἐλεύθερον στήσαιμι, κοινωνοὺς δ' ἔχειν
ὑμᾶς θέλων προσῆλθον ὧν αὐτὸς φρονῶ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

λέγ', ὡς προθύμοις, ἡδέως τ' ἂν ἐλπίδος
σοὶ τῆσδε συλλαβοῦσιν, αἰδοῖον κάρα.

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ἐγὼ κατ' ἄνδρ' ἄνακτας, εἴτ' οἴκοι τυχὼν, 1520
εἴτ' αὖ κατ' ἄστυ, γονυπετῶν κλαυθμῷ λιτῶν
συχνὸν μάλ' ἱκέτευσα, δεσμίου πατὴρ
παιδὸς φέρων ἄποινα· τῶν δ' εὗρόν τινας,
τοὺς καὶ Δάγωνα χοῦς ἔχει θυοσκόους
μάλιστα προσκυνοῦντας, εἰς πικρὰν χολὴν
τετραμμένους, κακοῖσιν ἀντιδρᾶν κακὰ,
ὑπερφρονοῦντας, ὥστε θαυμάζειν ἐμέ.
ἄλλοι δ' ἔδοξαν τοὐπιεικὲς ἀμφέπειν,
ἔργῳ δὲ πᾶς τις κέρδος ἴδιον, οὗ χάριν

Private reward, for which both God and State
They easily would set to sale; a third
More generous far and civil, who confessed
They had enough revenged, having reduced
Their foe to misery beneath their fears,
The rest was magnanimity to remit, 1470
If some convenient ransom were proposed.
What noise or shout was that? it tore the sky.

CHORUS.

Doubtless the people shouting to behold
Their once great dread, captive and blind before them;
Or at some proof of strength before them shewn.

MANOAH.

His ransom, if my whole inheritance
May compass it, shall willingly be paid
And numbered down. Much rather I shall choose
To live the poorest in my tribe, than richest,
And he in that calamitous prison left. 1480
No, I am fixed not to part hence without him.
For his redemption all my patrimony,
If need be, I am ready to forego

Θεὸν φιλοῦσι τὴν πόλιν τ' ἀπεμπολᾶν. 1530
τρίτοι δὲ, τἀστεῖόν τε προὔχοντες πολὺ
τό τ' εὐγενὲς, τόν τ' ἐχθρὸν οὐ φοβούμενοι
τὸν νῦν καταστραφέντα μὴ βλάπτειν ἔτι,
ἀπηγόρευον τῇ πρόσω τιμωρίᾳ·
γενναῖον ἡγήσαντο καὶ καλὸν τόδε,
ἐφ' ᾧ τε λύτρα λαμβάνειν τιν' εἰκότα.
ἔα· κραυγῇ διαῤῥαγέντ' ἂν οὐρανὸν λέγοις.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

δῆλοι γὰρ ἀναβοῶντες οἱ ξυνηγμένοι,
ἀνόμματον δεθέντα τὸν δεινὸν πάλαι
ὁρῶντες, ἢ σθένους τι θαυμαστὸν τέκμαρ. 1540

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

χαίρων ἂν, εἰ καὶ πάνθ' ὅσ' ἐν κλήρῳ πάρα
ῥίψαί με δεῖ, τελοῖμ' ἄν, ὥστ' ἐλευθεροῦν
τὸν παῖδα· τῶν γὰρ φυλετῶν πενέστατος
ζῆν ἀντὶ πλούτου μᾶλλον ἂν προειλόμην,
ἢ τόνδ' ἐν ἀθλίαισι διατελεῖν πέδαις.
τάδ' οὖν, ἑκὼν γὰρ πάντ' ἂν ἐστερημένος
τὰ πατρόθεν τυχόντα, διασώσας γέ νιν,
στέρξαιμ', ἀνάγκης τῆσδέ μοι 'πικειμένης,
ἐμοὶ δέδοκται, μηδ' ἄτερθ' αὐτοῦ μολεῖν,

And quit. Not wanting him, I shall want nothing.

CHORUS.

Fathers are wont to lay up for their sons,
Thou for thy son art bent to lay out all;
Sons wont to nurse their parents in old age,
Thou in old age car'st how to nurse thy son,
Made older than thy age through eyesight lost.

MANOAH.

It shall be my delight to tend his eyes, 1490
And view him sitting in the house, ennobled
With all those high exploits by him achieved,
And on his shoulders waving down those locks,
That of a nation armed the strength contained.
And I persuade me, God had not permitted
His strength again to grow up with his hair,
Garrisoned round about him like a camp
Of faithful soldiery, were not his purpose
To use him further yet in some great service;
Not to sit idle, with so great a gift 1500
Useless, and thence ridiculous, about him.
And since his strength with eyesight was not lost,
God will restore him eyesight to his strength.

CHORUS.

Thy hopes are not ill-founded, nor seem vain,

αὐτοῦ παρόντος, οὐδενός με δεῖ ποτε. 1550

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ὑπέρ γε τέκνων πατέρα δεῖ προμηθίας,
σὺ δ' ἀντὶ τοῦ σοῦ πάντ' ἂν ἀποβαλεῖν θέλοις·
παῖδες φιλοῦσι τούς σφε θρέψαντας τρέφειν,
σοὶ δ' ἡ πρόνοια πῶς τὸν υἱὸν ἂν τρέφοις,
τῶν σῶν ὑπερσχόντ', ὀμμάτων φθορᾷ, χρόνων.

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ἐμοὶ γὰρ ὀμμάτων μὲν ἀσμένῳ μάλα
τούτων μελήσει, καὶ τρέφειν καθήμενον
οἴκοι, μεγαυχεῖ θ' ὧν δέδρακ' ἀγάλματι
πρέποντα, κυμαίνουσαν ὤμοισιν τρίχα
θαμβοῦντι, τὴν ἐθνῶν ποθ' εἵρξασαν μένος. 1560
καὶ δὴ πέπεισμαι μήποτ' ἂν στέρξαι Θεὸν
τόνδ' αὖθις ἰσχύοντα σὺν κομῶν τροφῇ
τῶν ἀντὶ πιστῆς κρᾶτα πέρι τεταγμένων
φρουρᾶς, ἐν ἄλλοις εἴ γε μὴ κλεινοῖς τέ νιν
διακονεῖν ἔσωσεν· οὐδ' ἀργὸν γέρας
οἶμαί νιν ὀκλάζοντα καὶ νωθρὸν τρέφειν.
ὡς δ' οὐ ξυνεκπεσόντος ὀφθαλμοῖς σθένους,
εἴη ξυναναλαβεῖν νιν ὀφθαλμοὺς σθένει.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

εὖ δῆτ' ἔοικας οὔτ' ἄρ' ἐλπίδων μάτην

Of his delivery, and thy joy thereon
Conceived, agreeable to a father's love,
In both which we, as next, participate.

MANOAH.

I know your friendly minds, and—O, what noise!
Mercy of Heaven, what hideous noise was that!
Horribly loud, unlike the former shout. 1510

CHORUS.

Noise call you it? or universal groan,
As if the whole inhabitation perished!
Blood, death, and deathful deeds, are in that noise.
Ruin, destruction at the utmost point.

MANOAH.

Of ruin indeed methought I heard the noise.
O it continues, they have slain my son.

CHORUS.

Thy son is rather slaying them; that outcry
From slaughter of one foe could not ascend.

MANOAH.

Some dismal accident it needs must be.
What shall we do, stay here or run and see? 1520

CHORUS.

Best keep together here, lest, running thither

τούτων ἔχεσθαι, τήν θ' ὁμόσπορον χαρὰν 1570
καλῶς ἔδειξας, ὡς φιλόστοργος πατήρ.
τῶν δ' ἡμὶν ἀμφοῖν, οἷα δευτέροις, μέτα.

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ἀλλ' εὐμενεῖς μὲν ὄντας εὖ γ' ἐπίσταμαι—
τί δαί; τίν' εἰσήκουσα, πρὸς Θεοῦ, κτύπον;
λαμπρὸς μὲν ἦν καὶ φοβερὸς, οἷος οὐ τὸ πρίν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

κτύπον μὲν οὖν, μᾶλλον δὲ πάγκοινόν τινα
στόνον, διαφθαρέντος ὡς ὅλου γένους
ἐν αἱματωπῷ καὶ πολυκτόνῳ φόνῳ
αὔτως κατ' ἄκρας, αὐτόπρεμν' ὀλωλότων.

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ὀλωλότων γὰρ ὥς, ψόφου κατῃσθόμην. 1580
παπαῖ· τὸν υἱὸν, οὐ λήγουσι γὰρ, κατέκτανον.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

μᾶλλόν γ' ὑπ' αὐτοῦ κατθανόντας ἂν λέγοις.
ἑνὸς γὰρ οὐκ ἂν ἦν ποθ' ἡ δεινὴ βοή.

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

οἰκτρόν τι συμβέβηκεν, εὔδηλον τόδε.
οὔκουν ἐκεῖσε, τοῦ βλέπειν, δραμεῖν χρεών;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

οὐκ, ἀλλὰ τἀνθάδ' ἀσφαλέστερ', ἁς ἐκεῖ

We unawares run into danger's mouth.
This evil on the Philistines is fallen;
From whom could else a general cry be heard?
The sufferers then will scarce molest us here;
From other hands we need not much to fear.
What if, his eyesight—for to Israel's God
Nothing is hard—by miracle restored,
He now be dealing dole among his foes,
And over heaps of slaughtered walk his way? 1530

MANOAH.

That were a joy presumptuous to be thought.

CHORUS.

Yet God hath wrought things as incredible
For his people of old; what hinders now?

MANOAH.

He can, I know, but doubt to think he will;
Yet hope would fain subscribe, and tempts belief.
A little stay will bring some notice hither.

CHORUS.

Of good or bad so great, of bad the sooner;

κίνδυνον ἂν λάθοιμεν εἰσπεσόντες ἄν.
ἔστιν τόδ', ἔστι, τοῖς Φιλιστίνοις κακὸν,
οὐδ' ἦν ἀπ' ἄλλων τόνδ' ἂν ὠρυθμὸν κλύειν.
ταύτῃ μὲν οὖν μένοντας οὐ βλάψουσί πως, 1590
αὐτοὶ κακῶς ἔχοντες· οὐδ' ἄλλοι τινές.
ἴσως μὲν, οὐ γὰρ ἔστι τὸν μέγαν Θεὸν
οὐδέν ποτ' εἴ γε μὴ μάλ' εὐχερῶς ποιεῖν,
τῶν ὀμμάτων οἳ παρὰ φύσιν κατηγμένων,
ἐχθροῖσιν ἀντίποινα κατὰ μέρος φέρει,
στείχων νενησμένοισιν ἐν νεκροῖς μέσος.

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ὑπέρμετρον δὲ τοῦτο, καὶ παρ' ἐλπίδα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

Θεὸς δὲ τοιάδ' ἔσθ' ὅτ' εἴργασται πάλαι
πρὸς τῶν ἑαυτοῦ γ', οὐδ' ὁ κωλύσων πάρα.

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

δῆλος σθένων, ἄδηλος εἰ καὶ βούλεται. 1600
ὅμως δέ μ' ἐλπὶς ὥστε δέξασθαι τάδε
σαίνει· μένουσι δ', ἄγγελος τάχ' ἂν μόλοι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

φθάνει τὰ λύπρ', ὡς ἐν τόσῃ γε συμφορᾷ·

For evil news rides post, while good news baits.
And to our wish I see one hither speeding;
A Hebrew, as I guess, and of our tribe. 1540

MESSENGER.

Oh, whither shall I run, or which way fly
The sight of this so horrid spectacle,
Which erst my eyes beheld, and yet behold?
For dire imagination still pursues me.
But providence or instinct of nature seems,
Or reason, though disturbed, and scarce consulted,
To have guided me aright, I know not how,
To thee first, reverend Manoah, and to these
My countrymen, whom here I knew remaining,
As at some distance from the place of horror, 1550
So in the sad event too much concerned.

MANOAH.

The accident was loud, and here before thee
With rueful cry, yet what it was we hear not.
No preface needs, thou seest we long to know.

MESSENGER.

It would burst forth, but I recover breath

χρόνια τὰ τερπνά, τὸ δὲ κακὸν ταχύπτερον.
προσέρχεται δ' Ἑβραῖος, εἰκάσαι γ' ἐμέ,
ὁμόφυλος ἡμῖν, καίριός τε συντυχών.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

φεῦ, φεῦ, τίς ἄν μοι, ποῖ δραμόντι, καταφυγὴ
γένοιτ' ἂν, ὥστε μὴ τὰ τλημονέστατα
ἰδεῖν, ἰδὼν γὰρ διατελῶ λεύσσων ἔτι
τὰ συντυχόντα, περιφόβῳ φαντάσματι; 1610
ἀλλ', εἴτ' ἄρ' ἦν τὸ θεῖον, ἢ τὰ τῆς φύσεως,
εἴτ' αὖ τὸ φρόνιμον—ἀλλὰ σύμβουλον μόγις
τόδ' ἦν ἑλέσθαι, κάρτα παράκοπον φρενῶν—
οὐκ οἶδ' ὅπως, δεῦρ' ἦλθον εὐπλοίας τυχὼν,
κιχεῖν σε πρῶτον, τὸν μάλ' αἰδοῖον, Μάνως,
καὶ τοὺς πολίτας, ἐνθάδ' οὓς ἠπιστάμην
μένοντας, οὐ μὲν ἐμφόβων πέλας τόπων,
ἀλλ' οἷς ὑπέρφευ τῶν πεπραγμένων μέλει.

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

σὲ μὲν κτύπῳ φθάσαντα καὶ λυγρῷ στόνῳ
ἴσμεν τὰ συμβεβηκόθ', οἷα δ' ἐστὶν, οὐ. 1620
μαθεῖν προθύμοις, οὔ τι φροιμίου σε δεῖ.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

οὐδ' ἦν στέγειν τάδ', ἀλλά μ' ἀμπνεῦσαι χρεὼν

And sense distract, to know well what I utter

MANOAH.

Tell us the sum, the circumstance defer.

MESSENGER.

Gaza yet stands, but all her sons are fallen,
All in a moment overwhelmed and fallen.

MANOAH.

Sad; but thou knowest to Israelites not saddest 1560
The desolation of a hostile city.

MESSENGER.

Feed on that first, there may in grief be surfeit.

MANOAH.

Relate by whom.

MESSENGER.

By Samson.

MANOAH.

That still lessens
The sorrow, and converts it nigh to joy.

MESSENGER.

Ah, Manoah, I refrain too suddenly
To utter what will come at last too soon;
Lest evil tidings, with too rude irruption
Hitting thy aged ear, should pierce too deep.

τὸν νοῦν τ' ἀνορθοῦν, ὥστε τἀκριβῆ λέγειν.

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ἀλλ' ἀμβαλὼν ἕκαστα, τὸ ξύμπαν φράσον.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

Γάζην ἔτ' οὖσαν, τοὺς δὲ Γαζίτας λέγω
ξυνολωλότας τοὺς πάντας ἐν βραχεῖ χρόνῳ.

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ἀλγεινά γ', ἀλλ' οὐ τοῖσιν Ἑβραίοις τάδε
ἄλγιστα, τὴν ἐχθράν τιν' ἐκπέρσαι πόλιν.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

περίσσ' ἂν ἦν τἀντεῦθεν· ἀρκείτω τόδε.

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

τίνος δὲ τοὔργον;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

τοῦδ' ὃς ἐκπέφυκε σοῦ. 1630

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

σχεδὸν χαρά μοι, διάδοχος λύπης, πάρα.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

Μάνως, μάλ' ἄκων ἂν διηγοίμην τάχος
ὃ καὶ χρονισθὲν κάρτ' ἄωρον ἔρχεται·
καὶ γὰρ γεραιὰ προσβολαῖς κακαγγέλοις
βλάψαιμ' ἂν ὦτα, διατόρῳ κνίσας φόβῳ.

MANOAH.

Suspense in news is torture, speak them out.

MESSENGER.

Take then the worst in brief, Samson is dead. 1570

MANOAH.

The worst indeed! Oh, all my hopes defeated
To free him hence! but Death who sets all free
Hath paid his ransom now and full discharge.
What windy joy this day had I conceived,
Hopeful of his delivery, which now proves
Abortive, as the first-born bloom of spring
Nipt with the lagging rear of winter's frost!
Yet, ere I give the reins to grief, say first
How died he; death to life is crown or shame.
All by him fell, thou sayest; by whom fell he? 1580
What glorious hand gave Samson his death's wound?

MESSENGER.

Unwounded of his enemies he fell.

MANOAH.

Wearied with slaughter then, or how? explain.

MESSENGER.

By his own hands.

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

φρενῶν σπαραγμὸς τοῦτο τἀσαφές· φράσον.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ξυνελὼν λέγω τἄλγιστα· παῖς τέθνηχ' ὁ σός.

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

εὖ δὴ λέγεις ἄλγιστα· φροῦδον οἴχεται
τό μοι δοκηθὲν, ὡς ἐλευθεροῦντί νιν.
θάνατος δὲ, πάντων ὃς κακῶν ἀπαλλαγὴ, 1640
καὶ τόνδ' ὅλως ἐῤῥύσαθ'· ὧν δ' ἀνειλόμην
ἀνεμωλίων γεννήματ' ἐλπίδων νέα
ἀπῆλθεν ἔκβολ', ὡς τὸ χεῖμ', ὀπισθόπουν,
πάχνῃ τὰ πρωτόλεια τῶν μηνῶν δάκνει.
πρὶν δ' ὑπερέχειν μ' ἀλγοῦντα, σήμηνον τὸ πῶς.
θάνατος βροτοῖσιν αἶσχος ἢ κῦδος φέρει.
τίς τὸν κτανόντα πάντας, ὡς σὺ φῄς, κτανών;
τίς εὔχεται Σάμψωνα καιρίαν βαλών;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἐχθρῶν ἄθικτον ἴσθι νιν τεθνηκότα.

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

φόνοισιν ἐκκεκμηκότ', ἢ ποίῳ τρόπῳ; 1650

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

φήμ' αὐτόχειρά νιν θανεῖν.

MANOAH.

Self-violence? what cause
Brought him so soon at variance with himself
Among his foes?

MESSENGER.

Inevitable cause,
At once both to destroy and be destroyed.
The edifice, where all were met to see him,
Upon their heads and on his own he pulled.

MANOAH.

Oh, lastly over-strong against thyself! 1590
A dreadful way thou tookest to thy revenge.
More than enough we know; but while things yet
Are in confusion, give us, if thou canst,
Eye-witness of what first or last was done,
Relation more particular and distinct.

MESSENGER.

Occasions drew me early to this city,
And, as the gates I entered with sun-rise,
The morning trumpets festival proclaimed,
Through each high street. Little I had dispatched,
When all abroad was rumoured that this day 1600
Samson should be brought forth, to shew the people
Proof of his mighty strength in feats and games.

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

αὐτοκτόνος
πῶς ἦν, ἐν ἐχθροῖς αὐτὸς ἔχθιστος φανείς;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

θνήσκων γὰρ ἐθανάτωσεν, οὐδ' ἄλυξις ἦν.
τὸ δῶμα πᾶσιν εἰς θέαν ἠθροισμένοις
αὑτῷ τ' ἐφείλκυσ', ἐγκατασκήπτων ὁμοῦ.

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

αὐτὸς τὸ σαυτοῦ πῆμα τῷ σθένει λαβὼν
δεινόν τιν' εἵλου, φεῦ, τρόπον τιμωρίας.
ἡμῖν δὲ, καίπερ καταμαθοῦσι καὶ λίαν,
σὺ ταῦτα, πάντων τῶνδ' ἅτ' αὐτόπτης γεγὼς,
σκεθρῶς διηγοῦ, πρὶν καταστῆναι πόλιν. 1660

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἔγωγε ταύτας, ὄρθριος μολὼν, πύλας
ἔτυχον ἐσελθών· ἐν δὲ τῷδ' ἑωθινὴ
ἔδειξ' ἑορτὴν κατὰ μέσην σάλπιγξ πόλιν.
κἀμοὶ τὰ πράγματ' οὔτι προὔκοψεν πολὺ,
πρὶν δημόθρουν με πάντοθεν κιχεῖν φάτιν
ὡς σήμερον Σάμψωνα μέλλοιεν, σθένος
δείξοντα παμμέγιστον ἐξάγειν τάχα,
ἀγῶνας ἀθλήσοντα, πάνδημον θέαν.

I sorrowed at his captive state, but minded
Not to be absent at that spectacle.
The building was a spacious theatre,
Half-round, on two main pillars vaulted high,
With seats where all the lords, and each degree
Of sort, might sit in order to behold;
The other side was open, where the throng
On banks and scaffolds under sky might stand; 1610
I among these aloof obscurely stood.
The feast and noon grew high, and sacrifice
Had filled their hearts with mirth, high cheer, and wine,
When to their sports they turned. Immediately
Was Samson, as a public servant, brought,
In their state livery clad; before him pipes
And timbrels; on each side went armed guards,
Both horse and foot, before him and behind
Archers and slingers, cataphracts and spears.
At sight of him the people with a shout 1620
Rifted the air, clamouring their god with praise,
Who had made their dreadful enemy their thrall.
He patient, but undaunted, where they led him
Came to the place; and what was set before him,

κείνῳ μὲν οὖν παθόντι συμπαθὼν ὅμως,
τὸν νοῦν προσεῖχον τῇδε τῇ θεωρίᾳ. 1670
θέατρον ἦν μὲν τῇδε παιγνίᾳ μέγα,
τὸ δ' ἡμικύκλιον κίοσίν τ' ἠρείδετο,
ἤμπισχέ θ' ἁψίς· ἐν δὲ παντοῖοί τινες
στοιχηδὸν ἐθεάσαντο, συνθέτοις ἕδραις·
ἑτέρωθι δ', ὄχθαις βήμασίν θ' ὑπαίθριος
λεὼς, ἐν ᾧ καὶ χωρὶς ὢν ἐλάνθανον.
αὐτοὶ δὲ κωμάζοντες, ἐν μεσημβρίᾳ,
ἤδη δ' ὑπερπλησθέντες εὐοίνου βορᾶς
θύοντες, εὔφρονές τε, τῶν προκειμένων
εἴχοντο, δέσμιόν τε δημίᾳ στολῇ 1680
Σάμψωνα μετεπέμψαντο. κύμβαλ' ἦν πάρος
αὐλοί τε, πεζοὶ δ' ἱππόται τ' ὄπισθέ νιν,
ξὺν σφενδονητῶν ξύν τε τοξοτῶν λόχοις
δόρασίν τε καταφράκταις τε τῇδε χἀτέρᾳ,
κατῆγον· ὡς δ' ἐσεῖδον, οὐρανὸς βοῇ
διερράγη, τὸν ἐνθάδ' ὑμνούντων θεὸν,
δοῦλον παρασχόνθ' ὅστις ἦν πάντων φόβος.
ὁ δ' ἀτρεμαῖος, τλησικαρδίῳ φρενὶ,
ὅποι νιν ἦγον, πάντα θαυμαστῷ σθένει
ἕλκων τε βαστάζων τε διετέλει χεροῖν 1690

Which without help of eye might be assayed,
To heave, pull, draw or break, he still performed,
All with incredible, stupendous force,
None daring to appear antagonist.
At length for intermission sake they led him
Between the pillars; he his guide requested 1630
(For so from such as nearer stood we heard)
As over-tired to let him lean a while
With both his arms on those two massy pillars,
That to the arched roof gave main support.
He unsuspicious led him; which when Samson
Felt in his arms, with head a while inclined,
And eyes fast fixed he stood, as one who prayed,
Or some great matter in his mind revolved.
At last with head erect thus cried aloud:
"Hitherto, Lords, what your commands imposed 1640
I have performed, as reason was, obeying,
Not without wonder or delight beheld;
Now of my own accord such other trial
I mean to shew you of my strength, yet greater,
As with amaze shall strike all who behold."
This uttered, straining all his nerves he bowed;

φέρων τ' ἀναῤῥηγνύς θ', ὅσ' ὀμμάτων ἄτερ
ἔξεστι τολμᾶν· δεινὰ δ' ἦν ὁρᾶν πάνυ,
οὐδ' ἀνθάμιλλος ἦν τις, οὐδ' ἐναντίος.
στήλαιν δέ νιν μεταξὺ ταῖν διπλαῖν τέλος
ἔθεσαν ἐλινύσοντα· χὠς ἤδη καμὼν,
(τὸ δ' ἦν ἀκοῦσαι τῶν παραστάντων πάρα,)
ᾔτησε τοὺς ἄγοντας, ὥστε κίονας
δισσοῖσι δισσοὺς ξυλλαβεῖν βραχίοσιν,
οἳ δὴ βεβαίων ὑποδοχαῖς στηριγμάτων
ὀροφὰς δόμων σώζουσι κοιλογαστόρων· 1700
οἱ δ' οὐχ ὑποπτεύοντες ἤγαγον· τὰ δὲ
μάρψας, κάρα τ' ἔνευσε πρὶν τολμᾶν πλέω,
τά τ' ὄμμαθ', ὡς ἵκτωρ τις, ἤ τιν' ἐν φρενὸς
στρωφῶν βάθει δυσέκλυτ', ἐστηρίζετο.
τέλος δ' ἀναβλέπων τε καὶ λαμπρὸν βοῶν
τάδ' εἶπ'· ἄνακτες, μέχρι τοῦδ' εἰργασμένος
τά μοι τεταγμέν', ὡς μάλ' εἰκὸς ἦν, κυρῶ.
τὰ δ' ἀσμένοις ἦν, οὐδ' ἄνευ θάμβους, ἰδεῖν.
νῦν αὐτόβουλος ἐννοῶ τοιαῦτα δὴ
δεῖξαι τεκμήρι', εἰς ὑπερβολὴν, σθένους, 1710
οἷ' ἂν τὸν εἰσορῶντα καταπλήξαι φόβῳ.
ὡς οὖν ὀρεινὰ δυσπνόῳ σαλεύματα

As with the force of winds and waters pent
When mountains tremble, those two massy pillars
With horrible convulsion to and fro
He tugged, he shook, till down they came and drew
The whole roof after them, with burst of thunder, 1651
Upon the heads of all who sat beneath,
Lords, ladies, captains, counsellors, or priests,
Their choice nobility and flower, not only
Of this but each Philistian city round,
Met from all parts to solemnize this feast.
Samson, with these immixed, inevitably
Pulled down the same destruction on himself;
The vulgar only scaped who stood without.

CHORUS.

Oh, dearly-bought revenge, yet glorious! 1660
Living or dying thou hast fulfilled
The work for which thou wast foretold
To Israel; and now liest victorious
Among thy slain self-killed,
Not willingly, but tangled in the fold

τυφῷ τε κλεισθέντων τε χειμάῤῥων μένει,
αἰνοῖσιν ἑλκηθμοῖσι κιόνων βάθρα
ἔσεισεν ἔνθα κἄνθα καὶ διέσπασε·
τὰ δ' αἶψα συνθλιβέντα καταπεσόντα τε
ἐπὶ πᾶσιν αὐτὴν ἐγκατέσκηψεν στέγην
τοῖς ἡμένοισι, κοιράνοις γυναιξί τε,
ταγοῖς θυηπόλοις τε καὶ βουληφόροις,
ὅσοι παρῆσαν τῶν Φιλιστίνων πρόμοι· 1720
οὐ γὰρ πόλεως ξυνῆλθον ἐκ ταύτης μόνον,
οἱ δ' ἀμφὶ ταύτην πάντοθεν, τοῖς οἷς θεοῖς
ῥέζοντες ἔννομ'· ἐν δὲ τῇ ξυνῇ φθορᾷ
αὑτῷ τὸν αὐτὸν ἐνέβαλεν Σάμψων μόρον.
ὁ δῆμος, ἔξω τυγχάνων, ἐν ἀσφαλεῖ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

φεῦ μάλα πολλοῦ γ' ἀντιδοθείσας
ποινὰς πράξας, ἀλλ' ἐρικυδεῖς,
ἔργον τελέσας τὸ προκηρυχθὲν
τοῖσιν Ἑβραίοις· νῦν δὲ τριακτὴρ
ἐν τεθνεῶσιν κεῖσαι τεθνεώς, 1730
ἄκων μάλα δὴ, τῆς γὰρ ἀνάγκης
ἄρκυες εἷλον στερῤῥοῖς πλέγμασιν·
ἧς κατ' ἐφετμὰς μόρον εἴληχας

Of dire necessity, whose law in death conjoin'd
Thee with thy slaughtered foes, in number more
Than all thy life had slain before.

SEMICHORUS.

While their hearts were jocund and sublime,
Drunk with idolatry, drunk with wine, 1670
And fat regorged of bulls and goats,
Chanting their idol, and preferring
Before our living Dread, who dwells
In Silo, His bright sanctuary,
Among them he a spirit of phrenzy sent,
Who hurt their minds,
And urged them on with mad desire
To call in haste for their destroyer.
They, only set on sport and play,
Unweetingly importuned 1680

ξὺν τοῖς ὑπὸ σοῦ θανατωθεῖσιν,
πλείοσιν ἢ καὶ
ζωὴν ἔκανες διὰ πᾶσαν.

ΗΜΙΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἐν ᾧ γε θεομανεῖς
καὶ φρενόπληκτοι χαροποί τ'
οἰνοβαρεῖς τ' ἔσαν,
ταυρέου τε δημοῦ 1740
ἄδην γέμοντες αἰγέου τ',
ἄθεον θεὸν μὲν ὑμνῳ-
-δοῦντες, ὡς δὲ μείζονα
κλῄζοντες ἢ τὸν ἀ-
-μὸν Φόβον αἰὲν ὄντα,
τὸν Σιλῶνος ἀγλαὸν
ναὸν κατοικοῦντ', αὐτὸς εἰσέ-
-πεμψ' οἰστρήλατον
μανίαν φρενοκλόπον, παρακόπους
αὐτὸν προσκαλεῖν 1750
τὸν σφᾶς ὀλέσοντ', ἐπι-
-θυμοῦντας ἀσπερχές·
μόνον δ' ἐν κραδίᾳ
τερπνῶς παίγματ' ἔχοντες,

Their own destruction to come speedy upon them:

So fond are mortal men,

Fallen into wrath divine,

As their own ruin on themselves to invite;

Insensate left, or to sense reprobate,

And with blindness internal struck.

SEMICHORUS.

But he, though blind of sight,

Despised, and thought extinguished quite,

With inward eyes illuminated,

His fiery virtue roused 1690

From under ashes into sudden flame;

λειπόμενοι δὲ νοῦ,
λιπαροῦσιν αὐτοὶ,
σφᾶς καὶ τάχιστα τὰν δύαν
κιχεῖν· βρότειον ὀφλόν-
-τες πάθημα μωρίας,
κότῳ θεοσσύτῳ, 1760
αὐτομάτῳ δὲ βουλᾷ,
τῶν σφιν αἶψ' ὀλεθρίων
ἐπεσπεσόντων ἐφθάρησαν,
ἀνόητοι πάνυ,
τητωμένους γὰρ ἔλιπε Δαίμων,
ἀναισθησίᾳ
βεβλαμμένοι, ἢ φρενῶν
ἀλαῶν ἀμαυρώσει.

ΗΜΙΧΟΡΟΣ.

αὐτὸς δὲ, καίπερ ὄψιν ἐστερημένος,
παρά τ' ἀνθρώποις οὐδενὸς ἄξιος, 1770
ἢ καὶ, τό γε δοκοῦν, ἀφανὴς,
βλέπων τῆς φρενὸς ὄμμασιν,
πυριφλεγὲς μένος τ' ἤ-
-γειρ', ὡς αἰφνίδιον φῶς στεροπᾶς ἐκ σποδοῦ ἐκρήξαν,

And as an evening dragon came,
Assailant on the perched roosts,
And nests in order ranged
Of tame villatic fowl; but as an eagle
His cloudless thunder bolted on their heads.
So Virtue, given for lost,
Depressed and overthrown, as seemed,
Like that self-begotten bird,
In the Arabian woods embost, 1700
That no second knows nor third,
And lay erewhile a holocaust,
From out her ashy womb now teemed,
Revives, reflourishes, then vigorous most
When most unactive deemed;
And, though her body die, her fame survives

οἷός θ' ἑσπέριος δράκων ἐφάνθη,
κρεμαστοῖς ὅστις ἦλθ' ἐπίσσυτος
νεοσσοτρόφοις σταθμοῖς
εὖ τεταγμένοισί που
τιθασῶν ἀγραύλων
πετεηνῶν· ὁ δ' ἀετοῦ 1780
ἐς κεφαλὰς δίκαν ἐβρόντα,
νεφέων ἄτερθεν ὄρφνας·
ἀρετὰ τοιοῦτον·
ἦν γὰρ φθαρεῖσαν ἐς τὸ πᾶν ἐπῄκασαν,
ἀπολωλυῖάν θ' ὡς ἐκπατίαν,
ὡς αὐτοφυὲς ἐν Ἀραβικῶν
θαῦμ' ὄρνιθος ἐρημίᾳ
δενδρέων, ἀνέστη,
ὃ δὴ μουνογενὲς δεύτερον οὐκ, οὐδὲ τρίτον, δέχεται,
ἐν ᾧπερ δ' ὁλόκαυτον ὣς ἔκειτο, 1790
ἀναζῇ, γαστέρος δὲ φεψαλω-
-θείσης ἀναβρύει πάλιν,
τότε μάλιστα βίον ἔχον
ὅτε πλεῖστ' ἀπειπεῖν
ἐδόκει· σῶμα γὰρ θάνεν,
ἀλλ' ἀρετᾶς ἔτ' ἐστὶ δόξα·

A secular bird, ages of lives.

MANOAH.

Come, come; no time for lamentation now,
Nor much more cause. Samson hath quit himself
Like Samson, and heroicly hath finished 1710
A life heroic, on his enemies
Fully revenged; hath left them years of mourning,
And lamentation to the sons of Caphtor,
Through all Philistian bounds; to Israël
Honour hath left, and freedom, let but them
Find courage to lay hold on this occasion;
To himself and father's house eternal fame:
And, which is best and happiest yet, all this
With God not parted from him, as was feared,
But favouring and assisting to the end. 1720
Nothing is here for tears, nothing to wail
Or knock the breast, no weakness, no contempt,
Dispraise, or blame; nothing but well and fair,
And what may quiet us in a death so noble.
Let us go find the body, where it lies
Soaked in his enemies' blood, and from the stream
With lavers pure and cleansing herbs wash off
The clotted gore. I with what speed the while
—Gaza is not in plight to say us nay—
Will send for all my kindred, all my friends, 1730

φοίνιχ' ὑπερβαλοῦσα,
ἀδιάφθορος ζῇ. 1798

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ἄγετε δή, καιρὸς γὰρ οὐκέτ', οὐδὲ δεῖ, θρηνῳδίας,
τοῖα γὰρ δέδρακε Σάμψων, οἷα καὶ Σάμψων' ἐχρῆν,
ζῶν τε καὶ θνήσκων ἀγαστός· οὐδὲ τῆς τιμωρίας
ἀποτυχὼν κατ' οὐδὲν, ἔν γε τῶν Φιλιστίνων ὅροις
πολυετεῖς ἔθηκεν ἄτας τῷ γένει τοῦ Κάπτορος,
τοῖσι δ' Ἑβραίοισι δόξαν καὶ πόνων ἀπαλλαγὴν,
μή νυν ἀποτυχοῦσι καιροῦ δειλίας ἡσσημένοις.
ἀμφὶ δ' αὐτὸν, ἀμφὶ γένναν, εὖ γ' ἀείμνηστον κλέος·
ὃ δὲ κράτιστον, οὐκ ἀπόντος, τοῦτο δ' ἦν δεῖσαι, Θεοῦ.
αὐτὸς ἦν βοηθὸς, αὐτὸς διετέλει παραστατῶν.
τοισίδ' οὐ κλαυθμὸς προσήκει, στέρνα κοπτόντων
γόοι, 1809
οὐ γάρ ἐστ' ἄβληχρον οὐδὲν, οὐδ' ἀτιμίας τυχόν·
πάγκαλ' ἡμὶν, εὖ θανόντος, ταῦτ' ἔχει μειλίγματα.
δεῖ δὲ κείμενον τὸ σῶμα καὶ μυδῶν ἐχθρῶν φόνῳ
ἐκματεύσαντας, ῥοαῖσι καὶ φυτοῖς καθαρσίοις
αἷμα δὴ τὸ συμπεπηγὸς ἐκβαλεῖν διαῤῥύδην.
ἐν δὲ τῷδ', ὡς οὐκ ἐχόντων τῶνδε κωλύειν ἔτι,
ὡς τάχιστα τοὺς φίλους τε τούς τε συγγενεῖς ἐγὼ

To fetch him hence, and solemnly attend,
With silent obsequy and funeral train,
Home to his father's house. There will I build him
A monument, and plant it round with shade
Of laurel ever-green and branching palm,
With all his trophies hung, and acts enrolled
In copious legend, or sweet lyric song.
Thither shall all the valiant youth resort,
And from his memory inflame their breasts,
To matchless valour and adventures high; 1740
The virgins also shall, on feastful days,
Visit his tomb with flowers, only bewailing
His lot unfortunate in nuptial choice,
From whence captivity and loss of eyes.

CHORUS.

All is best, though we oft doubt,
What the unsearchable dispose
Of highest Wisdom brings about,
And ever best found in the close.
Oft He seems to hide his face,
But unexpectedly returns 1750
And to his faithful champion hath in place
Bore witness gloriously; whence Gaza mourns,

τοῦτο μώμενος ξυνάξω· τὼ νέκυν κομιστέον
ἐς τὰ πατρὸς, εὐσταλές τε καὶ σιωπηλὼ γέρας
προσλαβεῖν κτερίσματ'· αὐτὸς καὶ δάφνης ἀειθαλοῦς
περὶ πυκασθὲν, εὐκόμῳ τε, πλάτανος ἣν φέρει, σκιᾷ,
θήσομαι μνημεῖον, ἔν τε καὶ τρόπαι' ἐνημμένα, 1821
ἔργα τ' ἂν τὰ πάντα γράψαιμ', εἴτε πολυεπεῖ λόγῳ,
εἴτ' ἐν εὐλύροισιν ᾠδαῖς· ἐν δὲ τῷ λοιπῷ χρόνῳ
πᾶς νέος τις ἄλκιμός τε, τῇδ' ὃς ἂν φοιτῶν κυρῇ,
τάδε νοῶν, ἐπ' ἔργα φαίδιμ' ἔξοχόν τ' εὐθαρσίαν
μᾶλλον εἶσ' ἀναπτερωθείς· ἐν δ' ἑορταῖσίν ποτε
τὸν τάφον στέψουσιν ἀνθέων παρθένοι δωρήμασι,
κακόποτμον μόνον στένουσαι δυσγάμου γάμου μόρον,
δουλίων ἀρχὰς ὀδυρμῶν, ὀμμάτων τ' ἐφθαρμένων.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

πάντ' ἐπὶ τἀγαθὸν, ἔν τε τελευτῇ 1830
βέλτιστ' ἐξέβη, εἰ καὶ Ταμίου
τοῦ παναρίστου πυκνὴν σοφίαν
ἠγνοίησε τις· ὄψιν θαμὰ γὰρ
κρύψαι δόξας, ἃψ ἀνελήλυθεν
αἰφνίδιόν πως, ὡς νῦν, πρόμαχον
πιστὸν ἐπάρας, μάρτυς καίριος·
ἐξ ὧν Γάζῃ θ', οἵ τε συνώμοσαν

And all that band them to resist
His uncontrollable intent.
His servants He, with new acquist
Of true experience from this great event,
With peace and consolation hath dismissed,
And calm of mind, all passion spent.

ὥστ' ἀντισχεῖν τῷ δυσπαλάμῳ,
ξυνέβη κλαίειν· εἰ δέ τις αὐτῷ
κεδνὸς ὀπαδὸς, καινὰ μαθόντας 1840
καὶ μάλ' ἐχέγγυα, χαίροντας ἐῶν
φρένα τ' εὐκήλους,
ψυχαῖς ἐνέπνευσε γαλήνην.

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